

AUGUST 1954

ARMY INFORMATION DIGEST



In This Issue:

A TRULY DYNAMIC ARMY anticipates and meets its problems with resolute action. Taking cognizance that the United States Army is today facing a vitally important period in its history, The Chief of Staff calls for a more articulate and positive public relations attitude throughout the Army. His concept of "Army Troop and Public Relations" is featured in the lead article.

ACTION ALSO IS THE KEYNOTE of "Proposals for Improving Army Service as a Career." This interim report on the steps being taken to implement the Womble Committee recommendations, outlines the status of various measures designed to enhance the attractiveness of Army careers.

INCREASED PRESTIGE, improved leadership and discipline are expected to flow from the newly adopted plan to extend recognition to "Leaders and Specialists for Enlisted Grades."

SOLDIERS AT WORLD-WIDE DUTY STATIONS are able to exercise the rights of free citizens to vote in state and local elections, provided they meet certain specific requirements compiled in "Absentee Voting Guide."

BOTH THE ARMY AND THE INDIVIDUAL benefit when selectees lacking the equivalent of a fourth grade education are given the necessary academic instruction before starting basic combat training. Transitional Training Units described in "The Army Teaches Its Own" help to step up the effectiveness of available manpower.

NEW DEPARTURES in regimental organization were tried out in Operation Falcon. Although the findings are still being evaluated, the tests will make possible "Greater Effectiveness for Infantry Units."

INNOVATION. A new DICEST feature, "Paragraphs from the Pentagon and the Field" will bring to readers short items of Army-wide interest or significance. Coverage will range from the General and Special Staffs and Technical and Administrative Services to installations and activities in the continental United States and overseas.

ON THE COVERS. Off-duty tours are always a popular form of recreation for Army personnel overseas. American soldiers on the front cover take in the sights on a guided tour to one of the picturesque sections of Germany. The 280-mm. atomic cannon on the back cover, as well as rockets and guided missiles, are among the new weapons now in the hands of our troops. Some of the latest types are shown in "New Weapons — More Fire Power."

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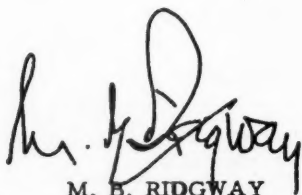
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UNITED STATES ARMY
THE CHIEF OF STAFF

The United States Army is presently facing a vitally important period in its history. There is the natural desire on the part of the public to reduce defense expenditures. This is particularly in evidence since the cessation of hostilities in Korea. In some quarters, the question arises as to the necessity for continuing Selective Service. Added to all of this, there has developed a serious interior element concerning the attractiveness of military service as a career.

I am confident that the Army will be supported by the American people to the extent that our problems, our many meritorious accomplishments, and our varied potentialities are made known to them. This is a continuing task to which we must all commit ourselves.

Commanders at all levels must be made aware of their responsibilities in this regard. In order that this may be carried out uniformly, I have issued a statement, published herewith, of my concept of effective Army troop and public relations. It is my hope that this document will be of assistance in developing and carrying out public information programs of maximum effectiveness.



M. B. RIDGWAY
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Army Troop And Public Relations

General Matthew B. Ridgway

AS A RESULT of the situation in which the Army finds itself today, we are confronted with an immediate troop and public relations problem which calls for positive action. Our long-range objective must be to inform the American public fully of Army activities and accomplishments, within the bounds of genuine military security, in order to instill confidence in Army personnel, policies and management, and to widen public understanding that the Army is performing loyally and intelligently in support of national aims and the public interest. To accomplish this objective, we must modify the philosophy which has for years guided the Army's action in the field of public relations. This philosophy has influenced officers to remain aloof from the public and reticent on their few public appearances. We must become more articulate and develop a positive public relations attitude throughout the Army. Too many officers look upon public relations as a defensive operation rather than a living, dynamic one.

One cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of giving proper consideration to the impact, on both the troops and the public, of proposed plans and policies, either basic or supporting. Except for valid security reasons, any action that cannot be satisfactorily explained to the troops, the Congress and the general public, should be regarded as suspect, and be thoroughly re-examined. It is fully realized that the Army cannot please everyone all the time. However, adverse reaction can be greatly reduced, if not entirely eliminated, by proper, timely explanation. The impact of proposed actions must be considered as much an item of cost as dollars and manpower. A single ill-considered action can impair in a short time the good effects of

prolonged and patient efforts. Every officer of the Army, regardless of his position, must cultivate the habit of scrutinizing every action in this light.

At every level of command the troop and public information officers should be consulted in all planning that has troop or public information aspects and afforded an opportunity to express their opinions. This will enable them to counsel on the effect of any policy that cannot be explained satisfactorily. It will also prepare them to explain fully the action adopted. They should also be given time for proper planning before an action is announced. It is a mistake to look upon them merely as publicity men.

The impact of proposed actions on Army personnel should be stressed particularly. When the troops understand fully, there is less occasion for complaint and speculation, with resulting less criticism from the public, the press and the Congress. This is particularly true now, when the Army is composed primarily of citizens involuntarily and temporarily in service. The situation today demands a more positive, more forceful type of leadership.

In some quarters there is a tendency to look upon troop information as a required activity of questionable value. Such an attitude indicates a failure to grasp its real significance and to recognize in it the application of sound principles of leadership. The commander must instill in his men recognition that each has an important job to do in a unit or activity, which is itself an essential cog in a larger organization. He must insure that its mission is clear so that the demands made on the soldier are understood. A soldier so imbued is the best possible product the Army can present to the public. Such a soldier will return to civilian life an enthusiastic supporter of the Army. The attitude of Army veterans is a direct reflection of Army leadership.

If the Army performs intelligently and efficiently, and if we keep our own personnel properly informed, we will have gone far in telling the American public about their Army. It remains for us to present ourselves directly to the people through the various public information media and through our daily contact at the community level. Only by doing all these things thoroughly shall we be able to gain and retain the confidence and support of the American people.

Public relations has been included in the Army Program System. Each quarter public information objectives are established. These cover those critical areas for which the Department of the Army particularly desires emphasis during the period. The guidance for accomplishing these objectives is set forth in supporting information plans which, together with the objectives, are furnished to Major Commands. Accompanying each information plan is a Speakers Guide or Fact Sheet which is included for the purpose of assisting speakers and writers. It is desired that increased attention be given to this guidance throughout the Army.

Another important field in which improvement is needed is community relations. It is at the installation level that the Army as an organization comes in closest contact with the public. The installation commander's relations with the community are of such importance that he should give the matter his continuing personal attention. He should strive in every practicable manner to bring the community and his command into harmonious relations. An active community relations program is expected of each post, camp and station commander.

The creation of such a public relations attitude as outlined herein demands the careful attention of commanders and their staffs at all levels. It calls for the selection of qualified officers for the posts of Troop Information and Education Officer and Public Information Officer. These are assignments in which qualified personnel should be stabilized to as great a degree as is practicable. Theirs is the responsibility for helping the commander to establish an atmosphere among his own personnel and with the public that will most effectively facilitate the accomplishment of his mission.

The creation of a public relations-conscious Army also calls for adequate, progressive instruction in troop and public information throughout the Army school system for officers and prospective officers. Maximum use should be made of the Army's facilities to train officer and enlisted personnel in this important field. Personnel specializing therein must not be penalized in regard to selection for promotion or higher training by reason of such specialization.



NEW WEAPONS— MORE FIRE POWER

To achieve greater fire power, deadlier and more accurate weapons are being issued to Army units. All of the guns and missile types pictured here are now in production and in the hands of troops.

U.S. Army Photographs

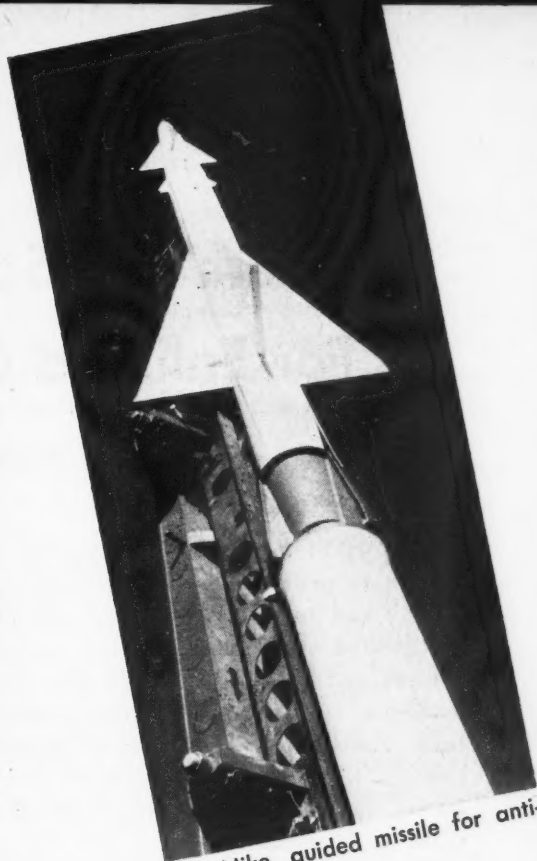
280-mm. gun, capable of firing conventional artillery or atomic shells.



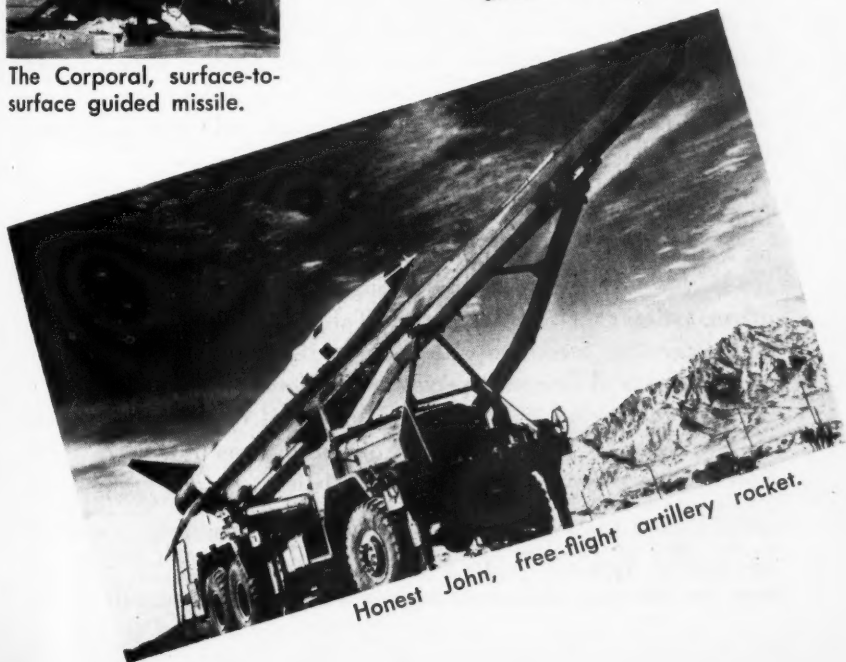
Skysweeper, radar controlled 75-mm. artillery machine gun.



The Corporal, surface-to-surface guided missile.



The Nike, guided missile for anti-aircraft defense.



Honest John, free-flight artillery rocket.

Leaders and Specialists For Enlisted Grades

Lieutenant Colonel William R. Tuck

IN A MOVE to increase prestige of noncommissioned officers and to provide for their recognition as persons of responsibility and authority, Army personnel in the top four enlisted grades soon will be separated into two groups, Noncommissioned Officers and Specialists. As a result, those who serve as actual leaders of troops—combat, administrative or technical—will continue wearing the time-honored chevrons of Noncommissioned Officers, while those who perform purely technical or administrative duties will be wearing a new sleeve insignia designating them as Specialists.

The plan has received much publicity and has been favorably accepted by the great majority of Army personnel. A world-wide survey was conducted recently in which more than nineteen thousand enlisted personnel and officers were briefed on the plan and then asked to indicate their acceptance or non-acceptance. Of those surveyed, 82 percent indicated that they liked the plan.

The target date for implementation is 1 January 1955, with the effective date to be announced later. Leadership positions in Tables of Organization and Equipment (T/O&E) have already been determined and designated as noncommissioned officer assignments. Proponents of Tables of Distribution (T/D) will determine leadership positions. All others in the top four pay grades will become specialist positions.

Upon conversion to the plan no one will receive a reduction in pay, for the separation of Noncommissioned Officers from Specialists will be made within the existing top four pay grades.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM R. TUCK, General Staff, is assigned to the Office of Assistant Chief of Staff, G1. The author is indebted to ARTHUR E. DUBOIS, Director of Heraldic Affairs, Department of Defense, for historical background material on enlisted specialists.

Nor will present provisions for quarters allowance, assignment of quarters or travel allowances for dependents be affected, as these items are authorized by law to pay grades. As for quarters assignment, the date of attainment of a pay grade will be used when this is a consideration in determining priority for quarters. Thus a Specialist who attained grade E-7 earlier than a Noncommissioned Officer would be placed higher on the priority list for quarters.

Implementation of the plan will be effected world-wide on the same day for both the Regular Army and reserve components. Regulations, instructions and revised Tables of Organization and Equipment and Tables of Distribution indicating noncommissioned positions, will be furnished to commanders at least one month prior to date of conversion. Commanders then will study their own organizations and decide who will be affected and will notify each individual concerned.

Any person who is in a specialist position at time of conversion and who has previously held a leadership position in the same grade may request retention of his Noncommissioned Officer status. Conversely those in positions that will be designated as noncommissioned grades may request specialist appointments. Promoting authorities will appoint boards of officers to review all requests. Individuals who have successfully held a leadership position in present grade for at least two months will be allowed to remain as Noncommissioned Officers. Both permanent and temporary grades will be affected but no status—whether Noncommissioned Officer or Specialist—will be lost due to transfer.

Although there will be changes in designations—personnel in the new category will be addressed and referred to as Specialist—there will be no changes in pay or allowances. New grade titles will be:

- E-7 Master Specialist
- E-6 Specialist First Class
- E-5 Specialist Second Class
- E-4 Specialist Third Class

Noncommissioned Officers will rank all other enlisted personnel, and will rank among themselves by grade and date of rank within grade. Specialists will rank next below noncommissioned officers and among themselves by grade and date of rank within grade. Private soldiers (E-3, E-2 and E-1) will rank below Specialists and among themselves by grade and date of rank

within grade. All personnel below E-4 in either group will continue to be designated as privates with existing titles.

Noncommissioned Officers will be used only in leadership or supervisory roles on fatigue details and guard. However, in recognition of their high degree of technical or administrative skill and their positions, Master Specialists and Specialists First Class will be exempt from fatigue and guard details except in unusual circumstances. When it is necessary to employ them in such details they will be used only in supervisory roles. Specialists Second and Third Class will be subject to fatigue and guard duty.

Promotion will continue to be effected in accordance with SR 615-25-40 and SR 615-25-50. Personnel may advance from a noncommissioned officer grade to a higher noncommissioned officer grade; or from a specialist grade to the same or next higher noncommissioned officer grade; or from a specialist grade to a higher specialist grade; or from grade of private to a higher grade in either. A Specialist in any grade may be promoted to a Noncommissioned Officer in the same pay grade or in the next higher pay grade. A Noncommissioned Officer may be appointed a Specialist in the same or next higher pay grade.

Reduction will be effected in accordance with SR 615-25-55. Specialists will be reduced in the same manner prescribed for Noncommissioned Officers.

Award of privileges will continue to be at the discretion of individual commanders in accordance with local conditions.

In effect, the plan will provide additional prerogatives not now available to Noncommissioned Officers by insuring that they will be used only as leaders; at the same time it does not detract from those who will become Specialists but rather will tend to recognize them as having attained special skills or administrative ability.

The plan is similar to the system that was operative prior to World War II when specialists held the actual grade of Private or Private First Class and received extra "Specialist" pay commensurate with skill or administrative ability. Thus an enlisted expert might be a private but receive extra pay almost equal to that of a sergeant.

In 1942 this was changed with establishment of the Technician grades. Specialists in advanced pay grades up to and including the then Staff Sergeant rank were placed in the new

category, identified by a small T under the chevrons. These were known as Technician Fifth, Fourth, or Third Grade.

In 1948 the Technician category was abolished and all personnel in the top four grades were made Noncommissioned Officers. This resulted in a dilution of the enlisted grade structure. The large increase in numbers of Noncommissioned Officers made it impracticable for commanders to grant to them, as a group, many of the prerogatives and privileges which they had formerly enjoyed. The new plan, with its resultant reduction in number of Noncommissioned Officers, will recognize them as persons of authority, and their responsibilities will be more clearly defined and understood.

Nothing in the new order lessens or takes away privileges from those who will become Specialists. The plan provides that Specialists in grades E-7 and E-6 will have the same privileges as Noncommissioned Officers. Granting of off-duty privileges in units and on installations will continue to be the prerogative of local commanders. As an example, pass privileges and club membership will be prescribed by local commanders based on local situations.

Historically there has long existed a distinction between the noncommissioned officer who exercised command authority "in the line" and the skilled technician who performed certain mechanical or administrative duties. In his research into the background of the entire problem, Arthur E. DuBois, Director of Heraldic Affairs for the Department of Defense, found that in the United States Army the division between leaders and skilled technicians goes back to the Revolution. He further found that scores of changes have been made in the designations of the specialists.

The titles and functions of American noncommissioned officers during the Revolution were identical with the British, from whom the Continental Army organization had been borrowed. On 23 July 1775 a General Order was issued from Headquarters of the Continental Army at Cambridge: "Serjeants may be distinguished by an Epaulette, or stripe of red cloth, sewed upon the right shoulder; the Corporals by one of Green." It was not until 1821 that the chevron came into use, when sergeants wore one upon each arm below the elbow, corporals one upon the right arm above the elbow.

In addition to the epaulettes, noncommissioned officers at

first were authorized to wear swords. However they were not so easy to procure as the cloth insignia. General George Washington also urged uniforms of finer cloth. Writing of the importance of noncommissioned officers of the line, General Washington on 22 January 1780 said: "... the regularity of the service greatly depends on having a sufficient number of good ones." This statement has since grown into a maxim and has hardly been questioned from that day to this.

The Continental Army (and even earlier the Colonial militia when called into the field) found it expedient to procure skilled technicians such as boat builders, carpenters, painters, wheelwrights, coopers and a score of others, by awarding both extra pay and larger rations. As the Army increased in technological complexity, the number of basically military technicians increased. By the outbreak of World War I there were 57 varieties of specialists (including combat types) among enlisted men; by 1919 the total had leaped to 704 different specialties.

From the very beginning special recognition was given in the form of pay and privileges to higher grades of both noncommissioned officers and technicians. In 1776 the Continental Congress granted an increase of an extra dollar a month over the \$8 then paid to sergeants, to the sergeants major (line troops) and to the specialist ranks of drum and fife majors and the quartermaster sergeants. And it is interesting to note that during the Civil War two occupational specialists—quartermaster sergeants of volunteer regiments and regimental hospital stewards—received even more pay than combat leaders. Both were paid \$33 a month as compared to \$26 for the sergeant major. They also wore distinctive markings.

As early as 1792 the age of specialization was well under way, with recognition for sergeants major, quartermaster sergeants, senior musicians, sergeants, corporals, farriers, artificers, saddlers, musicians, trumpeters, dragoons and privates.

By 1796, however, the senior musician grade and "trumpeters" seem to have disappeared. But this was not from any lack of emphasis on music as a specialty in the Army for "principal musicians" appeared in their place on the rolls. At the same time, research shows that the farriers and saddlers were united as saddlers while two new specialists are found to be included—sappers and miners.

Such changes continued down the years with combinations,

deletions and additions appearing—blacksmiths and drivers of artillery were added to enlisted grade titles in 1813, for instance, and “enlisted man for ordnance” by 1832. Changes in the structure and importance of various arms or branches of the Army may be traced by some of the additions. During the Civil War medical cadets, hospital stewards, commissary-sergeants, veterinary sergeants, quartermaster sergeants, master wagoners and wagoners, are some of the enlisted grades that existed. Many of the titles disappeared by 1866 when for the first time mention is found of privates second and first class.

General Order 169 of 14 August 1907 prescribed a wide variety of noncommissioned officers' chevrons and special insignia for various duty assignments. Some of these included regimental sergeants major and sergeants major senior grade, Coast Artillery Corps; and several other Coast Artillery specialist ranks such as electrician sergeant first and second class, master gunner, fireman, observer, planter, loader, engineer. Also to be found were grades of ordnance sergeant as well as “sergeant of ordnance.” The exact distinction is not clear at this time. There were sergeants of the Hospital Corps and lance corporals of the Hospital Corps. Several Signal Corps grades were listed. Provision also was made for mechanic and artificer while in the Field Artillery mechanics performed the old duties of farrier, blacksmith or saddler. Many others were included in the list of specialists.

Still other grades for enlisted personnel were created under provisions of the Act of Congress, 3 June 1916. During World War I, due to the difficulties experienced in getting sufficient chevrons, it became necessary to prescribe them for wear on the left sleeve only. By the end of the war, there were no less than 128 different chevron designs in the supply system. The word “chevron,” incidentally, derives from the French word meaning “roof rafter” so that in the United States Army it is customary to wear the points upward—but this has not always been true and some foreign armies reverse the stripes.

The large number of designs proved awkward in use, so by 1920 the number was reduced to seven. These designated Master Sergeant (grade 1); Technical Sergeant (grade 1); First Sergeant (grade 2)*; Staff Sergeant (grade 3); Sergeant (grade 4);

*In 1942 the First Sergeant was designated as grade 1.

Corporal (grade 5) and Private First Class (grade 6). In that year provision also was made for designating several specialist titles such as casemate electricians, observers, coxswains, gun commanders and gunners, plotters, gun pointers and "chief leaders," to name but a few.

The changes of 1942 have already been described. In 1948 smaller chevrons were introduced and an effort was made to distinguish between combat and other fields by a difference in color—blue on gold denoting combat career fields and gold on blue signifying all others.

Also in 1948, the enlisted grade structure was revised as follows: First and Master Sergeant, E-1; Sergeant First Class, E-2; Sergeant, E-3; Corporal, E-4; Private First Class, E-5; Private, E-6; and Recruit, E-7. The old three-stripe sergeant's chevrons (commonly known as buck sergeant) disappeared and the grade was identified by the insignia formerly worn by the "staff sergeant." The designation "recruit" was later abolished; those in pay grade E-1 (changed from E-7 by the reversal of the numbering of the enlisted pay grades by the Career Compensation Act of 1949) are now known as Private.

In February 1951 the enlisted insignia of grade was standardized at $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches in width and the combat and non-combat chevrons were combined into one design. Since then there has been no distinguishing mark between "specialist" and "leader" personnel. The nearest step in this direction has been the use of green shoulder loops to identify combat leaders.

In adopting the current plan, it was decided that no attempt would be made to show by varying sleeve insignia the actual job or skill of the new Specialist group. For one thing it would be costly; for another it would require large stocks difficult to maintain; and it would result in a profusion of symbols that would be difficult to remember and recognize.

A design was sought which would show at a glance that the wearer was actually a Specialist, entitled to recognition of his advanced skill and technical ability. Many different designs of arm insignia were proposed, and those judged to be most desirable were submitted to a cross section of Army personnel for selection. The resulting insignia will bear the proud American eagle from the Great Seal of the United States. Gradations in rank will be shown by an arc over the eagle.

All provisions of the plan, including utilization of boards of



MASTER
SPECIALIST



SPECIALIST
FIRST CLASS



SPECIALIST
SECOND CLASS



SPECIALIST
THIRD CLASS

NEW SPECIALIST CHEVRONS

officers to determine the retention of noncommissioned grades, are applicable to the National Guard and to members of units of the Army Reserve organized and trained to serve on active duty. However, for members of the Army Reserve not on active duty and not members of such units, the custodian of the individual's records will determine the category for each. Board action is not taken for these Reserve personnel, to prevent a large administrative load for the small staffs. This step is considered justifiable in that Reserve personnel can be reclassified readily when they go on active duty or join a Reserve unit. In most instances the Military Occupational Specialty of these Reservists is reconsidered on their entrance on active duty and allowance is made for additional skills acquired in civilian life.

Computations based on T/O&E's indicate that 98 percent of E-7 positions will be in the noncommissioned officer category; in grade E-6 the figure will be 92 percent; in grade E-5 only 40 percent will be so designated while in grade E-4, about 2 percent will be Noncommissioned Officers and the remainder Specialists.

As an illustration of the effect of the plan, consider the infantry rifle company. Today, there are 99 Noncommissioned Officers in this company, out of a total of 190 enlisted men or 52 percent. Under the new plan there will only be 43 Noncommissioned Officers in the rifle company or 23 percent. All men in this

company in grades E-7 and E-6 will be Noncommissioned Officers as will all men in grade E-5 except the three cooks. In grade E-4 only the three Assistant Squad Leaders (machine gunners in the Weapons Squad) will be Noncommissioned Officers, and the remainder of E-4 (53 in number) will be Specialists.

In units of the Technical and Administrative Services a similar situation will exist, with such positions as platoon sergeant, shop foreman, section leaders and assistant section leaders being Noncommissioned Officers while those who are not in command of or responsible for others will be Specialists.

Thus in essence the plan simply provides that those who actually lead or direct others will be Noncommissioned Officers and will have the rank and authority to fulfill their responsibilities. Those who are not leaders will be Specialists and will be able to attain pay grade in recognition of their technical or administrative skills.

"...troops who have fought a few battles and won, and followed up their victories, improve upon what they were before to an extent that can hardly be counted by percentage. The difference in result is often decisive victory instead of inglorious defeat. This same difference, too, is often due to the way troops are officered."

Ulysses S. Grant



A Sports Program For the Army in Europe

Major General Charles K. Gailey, Jr.

“**A**THLETICS FOR THE MILLIONS” comes closest to a capsule definition of the sports program of the United States Army, Europe (USAREUR). Name a typically American sport—or a couple of European favorites—and chances are a USAREUR team is training for it, is competing in it or has just completed it.

The geographical area in which these athletic events take place is enormous. With USAREUR installations scattered from the south of France and Germany, throughout the American Zone of Germany (including Berlin) to the North Sea, Army sports range over much of Western Europe. In addition, separate sports programs are carried out by American troops in Austria, and by the United States Air Force at bases in England, Germany, Italy and North Africa.

Athletics have always been an important training and recreational activity in the Army. Following cessation of hostilities in Europe, an extensive sports program was launched in the European Theater for servicemen awaiting redeployment, shipment home or engaged in occupation duty. To get this program started, gloves, bats, balls, shoulder guards, helmets, shoes and myriad other pieces of athletic equipment were sped to Europe by Special Services.

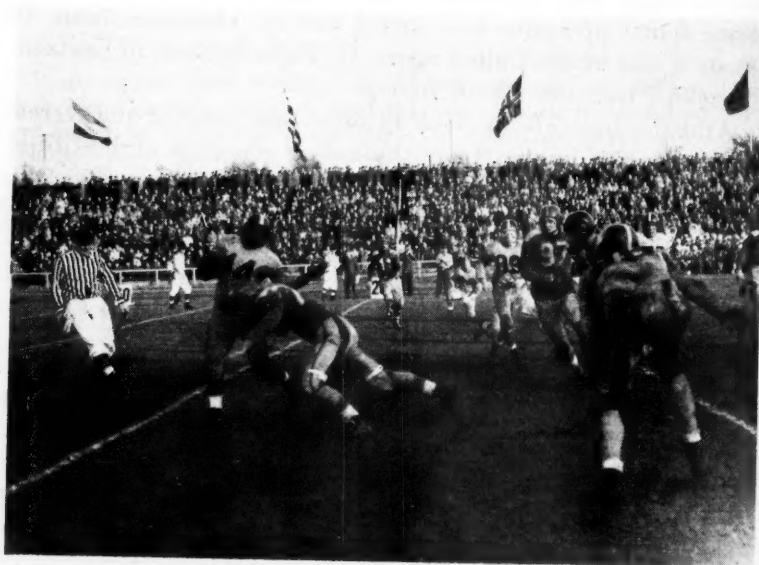
Ten football conferences were quickly organized with regular schedules culminating in championship games; four thousand basketball teams took to the floor, with both company and divisional bracketing; and theater championship matches were held in boxing, cross country running, skiing, soccer, track and field, speed and figure skating and wrestling. Plans also were

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES K. GAILEY, JR., USA, is Chief, Special Activities Division, Headquarters, United States Army, Europe (USAREUR).



The winner of the 400-meter dash crosses the finish line in the USAREUR Track and Field Championship Meet at Augsburg.

U. S. Army Photograph



An attempted end run is thwarted by an alert halfback during a championship game at Soldiers Field, Nuremberg.

U. S. Army Photograph

laid for baseball, bowling, golf, softball, swimming, archery, badminton, fencing, horseshoes, squash, tennis, touch football and volleyball.

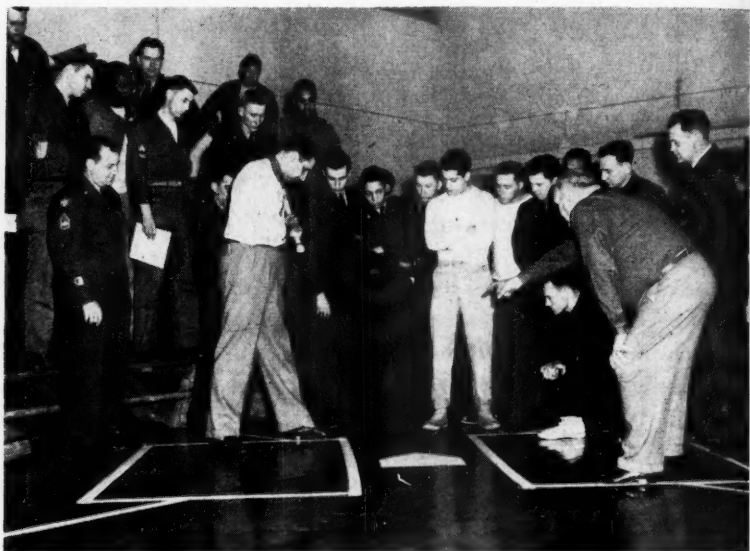
The sports program became popular with participants and spectators. Athletics early became the number one recreational activity of American soldiers in Europe—a position it has never relinquished. Admission never has been charged except for special events involving worthy charities.

The athletic program of USAREUR Special Services has itself been streamlined into five major departments—plans, supply, operations, the Athletic Officials Association, and WAC/WAF athletics. Among the more important functions of the Athletic Branch is the organization, supervision and administration of command, district or regimental sports in baseball, bowling, boxing, football, golf, skeet shooting, skiing, swimming and diving, tennis, and track and field; on the battalion level, soccer; and on the company level, basketball, softball, touch football and volleyball.

Championship playoffs are held for all sports in the USAREUR program. These championships are supported by the eleven Army athletic conferences which have been organized on a geographical basis throughout the Command. Responsibility for the administration of two of these conferences falls directly to the Athletic Branch—Northwestern Area Commands Conference with five members, and the Southeastern Area Commands Conference with six. Both are composed of Commands and districts (formerly designated as military posts) within USAREUR.

There are nine other athletic conferences—1st Infantry Division; 2d Armored Division; 4th Infantry Division; 28th Infantry Division; 43d Infantry Division; V Corps; VII Corps; Army Troops, Seventh Army; and USAREUR Communications Zone (ComZ). Schedules within these nine groups are drawn up at the direction of the respective commanding officers. However, USAREUR championships, standard schedules for football and baseball, and for teams within the Northwestern Area Commands Conference and Southeastern Area Commands Conference are set by the Athletic Branch.

The size and scope of current USAREUR athletic activities and the relative popularity of the various sports is indicated by the number of teams involved in league play—1975 softball,



Coaches and umpires receive pointers from a National League professional during a USAREUR Baseball Clinic.

U. S. Army Photograph



One of the teams participating in the WAC/WAF softball championship games.

U. S. Army Photograph

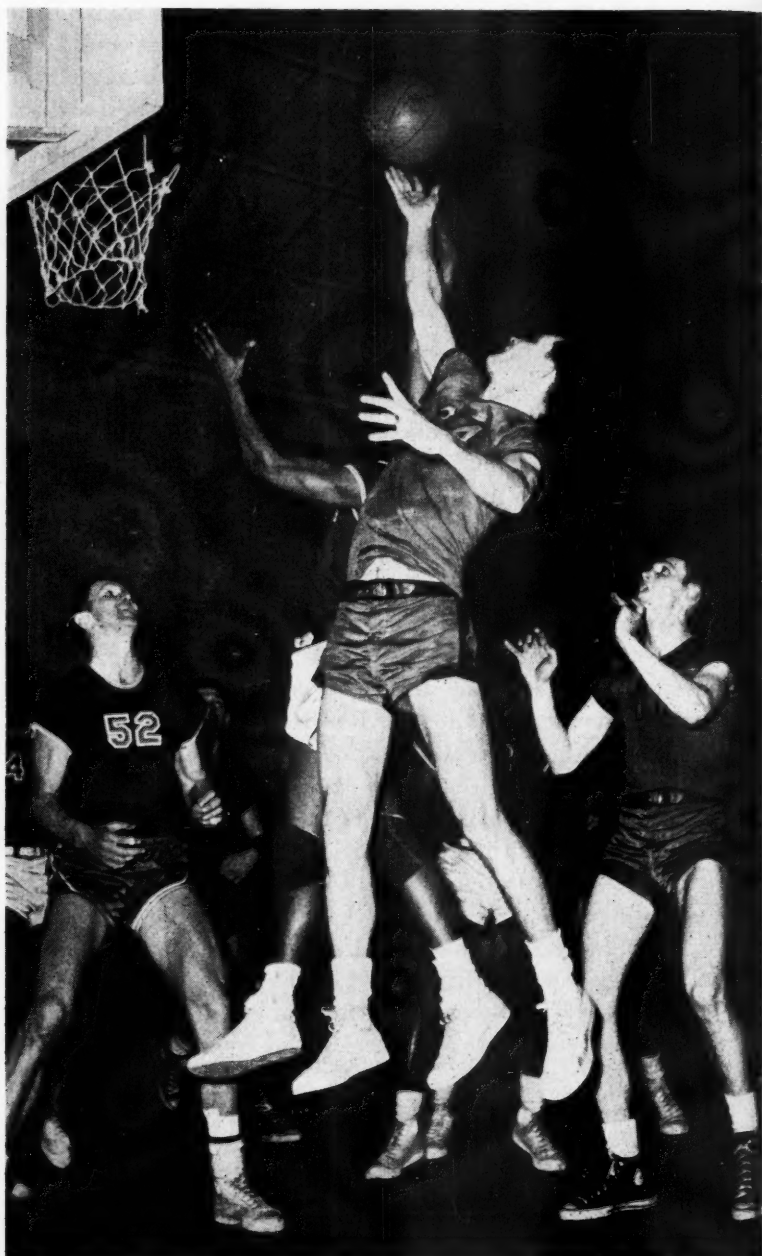
1685 basketball, 1550 touch football, 1200 table tennis, 1200 volleyball, 560 soccer, 400 boxing, 75 skeet, 75 track and field, 75 golf, 70 tennis, 59 baseball, 57 football, 40 swimming and diving, and 25 skiing teams. Bowling is also popular. In 1953, 5,314,215 lines were bowled.

Recognition is provided by award of cups, medals and trophies. First and second place teams reaching championship-level playoffs receive trophies for their unit organizations while mementos are given each member. Conference winners are awarded individual trophies for top men in the leagues.

A new trophy was designed in 1953. Known as the USAREUR Commander's Trophy, it is presented semi-annually to the conference achieving the highest point total for participation in all sports of the USAREUR championships in that period. Summer sports included in this competition are baseball, golf, soccer, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field. In winter, competition is held in bowling, boxing, football, basketball, skeet shooting and skiing.

Competent officials who know the mechanics and rules of the various sports are the backbone of any athletic program. The job of keeping military sports officials and coaches up to date on new rules and insuring that they are well grounded in the old ones is handled by the USAREUR Athletic Officials Association (UAOA). This organization, open to Army civilian employees as well as military personnel, has over four hundred members and a waiting list of more than twelve hundred applicants. Its membership includes officials for all USAREUR-sponsored sports. Accreditation by the UAOA is no easy matter and membership once earned must be renewed annually. This involves attendance at clinics conducted yearly in each major sport. Among other activities, UAOA is responsible for all sports clinics and for assignment of officials to all USAREUR games. It maintains a constant check on the progress of its members in supervising games.

Athletic officials associations also are maintained in most USAREUR conferences. These are administered under the same rules as UAOA by civilian Recreation Supervisors (Sports) assigned to various units throughout the Command. At present, twenty-two such civilian experts are working with the USAREUR athletic program. All hold college degrees, are proficient in one or more sports and are well versed in the rules.



Tense moments such as this were frequent during the EUCOM Army basketball playoffs at Stuttgart, Germany.

U. S. Army Photograph

The annual USAREUR sports clinics for officials and coaches have become famous. At the invitation of USAREUR Special Services, outstanding authorities come from the United States each year on a gratuitous basis to conduct three to five-day classes in their respective specialties. Students, coaches and officials attend not only from USAREUR but also from Austria, Trieste, SHAPE, and Air Forces units throughout Europe.

On the women's side of the sports ledger, members of the WAC and WAF from three Commands—USAREUR; United States Forces, Austria; and United States Air Forces, Europe—have a comprehensive athletic program which includes badminton, horseshoes, softball, tennis and table tennis during the spring and summer, and basketball and bowling in fall and winter.

Women's sports are similarly grouped into conferences according to geographical location. Since the number of participants is fewer, only three conferences have been organized—Northern, Central and Southern. Each has six members. Climaxing each sport season, eliminations are held for conference championships and then theater-wide champions are selected.

Certain facilities in Garmisch and Berchtesgaden, administered by the Southeastern Area Command, serve as leave and rest centers for servicemen and women and civilians on leave. Both are situated in the heart of the Bavarian Alps.

Garmisch, 100 kilometers south of Munich, is at the foot of the *Zugspitze*, Germany's highest mountain. Host to the 1936 Winter Olympics, Garmisch has long been a mecca for European sportsmen. Among its many sports are two large ice rinks, a 90- and a 60-meter ski jump, and one of the world's fastest and trickiest bobsled runs.

The 1953 International Winter Sports Week at Garmisch saw seven countries, including the United States, compete in bobsledding, ice hockey and skiing, with the United States winning the world four-man bobsled title. Members of the team included two Army officers, a sergeant, and an Army civilian employee.

Almost all competition for USAREUR winter sports championships is carried on either at Garmisch or Berchtesgaden. During the summer, the sites are used for golf, tennis, swimming and other summer sports activities.

But Garmisch and Berchtesgaden are by no means the most remote areas in which USAREUR athletes compete. In 1952 the Army sent its top track and field squad to participate in

the Conseil International du Sport Militaire (CISM) athletic meet in Copenhagen, and to that organization's basketball tournament in Brussels. In 1953 a USAREUR swim squad travelled to Alexandria, Egypt, and performed creditably against aquamen from Egypt, India and The Netherlands.

Also in 1953, the United States Army was the sponsor of the CISM Boxing Championships in Munich, in which teams from Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, France, Italy and The Netherlands took part. In the competition, CISM titles in the flyweight, welterweight and middleweight divisions were taken by United States Army boxers.

The American entry in Conseil International du Sport Militaire field meets is selected from the best available entries within USAREUR; United States Forces, Austria; United States Navy, Europe; and United States Air Forces, Europe. Responsibility for all matters connected with CISM activities has been delegated by the Inter-Service Sports Council, Washington, D.C., to the Commander in Chief, United States Army, Europe. A committee of representatives from all elements of the United States Forces serving in the European Theater confers to administer United States representation in these competitions. Rigid eliminations are held before the official United States team is announced.

German-American sports contests, while not on an organized basis, are scheduled with enough frequency to make them almost commonplace. Soccer, perhaps the most popular single game in Germany and throughout Europe, is still too advanced a game for other than occasional German-American or Franco-American competition. Recently, however, USAREUR has placed new emphasis on soccer by raising it to championship status.

An athletic program of such scope and size must obviously cost money. But where that money comes from is something about which the American taxpayer need not worry. Revenue generated through profits of the European Exchange System and the European Motion Picture Service cover the major cost of the Special Services program. Nonetheless, the dividends flowing from the USAREUR sports program are enormous when figured in terms of team spirit, fighting trim and heightened morale among troops helping to hold the line against Communist aggression in Western Europe.

Proposals for Improving Army Service as a Career

Early in 1953, the Secretary of Defense appointed an Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of Military Service as a Career that will Attract and Retain Capable Career Personnel (Womble Committee).

In its final report, issued 30 October 1953, the Committee recommended a broad program of action by the Congress, the Department of Defense, and the military services themselves. The report has been approved by the Secretary of Defense and forwarded to the President. It is a blueprint for continuing action to overcome problems which adversely affect military service as a career. The full text of the Womble Committee Report was published in the February 1954 issue of ARMY INFORMATION DIGEST.

THE FOLLOWING is a summary of the status of actions which have been taken or are in progress (as of 24 June 1954) to improve Army service as a career.

I. Status of Actions Requiring Legislation.

1. *Promotions.* The Arends Bill enacted as Public Law 349—83d Congress repeals riders restricting promotion and retirement of officers, and establishes a sliding scale grade structure for officers in each service which is designed to permit a normal rate of promotions.

2. *Warrant Officer Career Program.* Public Law 379—83d Congress establishes a long-range career program for warrant officers.

3. *Air Force Academy.* Public Law 325—83d Congress authorizes establishment of an Air Force Academy, with the overall result that more young men desiring Regular appointments will have the opportunity to gain military academy training. [On 24 June Secretary of the Air Force Harold E. Talbott announced that Colorado Springs, Colorado, had been chosen as the location for the new Air Force Academy.—Editor.]

4. *Reenlistment Bonus.* Proposed legislation to increase the bonus paid for reenlistment of Regular Army, Navy or Air Force personnel has been introduced in Congress.

5. *Family Housing.* A bill to authorize \$350,000,000 for the construction of 25,000 family housing units at permanent military installations is before Congress. The Army share of the program is 7500 housing units.

6. *Home Loans.* Proposed legislation to provide FHA-guaranteed home loans for personnel in the service, up to 95 percent of the appraised value, at an interest rate comparable to "GI-loans" for veterans, passed the Senate on 3 June 1954.

7. *Quarters Allowances.* A bill to authorize occupancy of sub-standard Government quarters without forfeiture of the entire rental allowance is now in the Bureau of the Budget.

8. *Dislocation Allowance.* Proposed legislation to reimburse military individuals for unusual expenses incident to permanent change of station has been sent to the Bureau of the Budget.

9. *Weight Allowance.* The current appropriation bill reported in the House raises the maximum weight limitation on transportation of household goods at Government expense, during a permanent change of station, from 9000 to 11,000 pounds. The House Armed Services Committee intends further study of this matter, with a view to enacting permanent legislation covering movement of household goods.

10. *Dependent Medical Care.* A bill has been introduced in Congress which provides medical care for authorized military dependents by military medical facilities when available, and for payment by the Government of part of the cost of medical care by civilian facilities when military care is not available. This bill is based on the findings and recommendations of the Moulton Committee study of dependent medical care.

11. *Dependent Education.* Another bill, under preparation in the Defense Department, proposes enabling legislation to provide for the education at Government expense of military dependents entitled to a free public school education, replacing the existing practice of authorizing a specific sum in annual appropriations to partially offset tuition charges.

12. *Survivor Benefits.* Public Law 239 — 83d Congress provides a means by which retired military personnel may exercise the option of receiving a reduced retired pay to create a monthly life income for surviving widows and dependent children.

The Defense Department is preparing proposed legislation to equalize survivor benefits for all Regular and Reserve personnel who die in active service.

13. *Dual Compensation.* A bill has been introduced in Congress raising the current salary limitation of retired personnel who are employed by the Federal Government. The proposal would authorize acceptance of up to \$6250 per year for such employment without loss of retired pay.

14. *Revision of Uniform Code of Military Justice.* Proposed legislation to revise the Code to modify the disciplinary powers of military commanders has been forwarded to the Bureau of the Budget.

15. *Incentive-Hazardous Duty Pay.* A bill to increase the \$45 per month combat pay authorized during the Korean emergency has been forwarded to the Bureau of the Budget.

The Defense Department is preparing proposed legislation to make certain increases in special pay for flying duty.

16. *Basic Pay.* Since enactment of the Career Compensation Act of 1949, the cost-of-living index has shown a rise from 101.5 to 114.8. A military pay increase of 5.7 percent was authorized in 1952. Two bills providing for a military cost-of-living pay increase of 8 percent have been introduced by members of Congress. The Defense Department has no proposal for a pay increase in its current legislative program.

II. Completed Army Actions.

1. *Officer Classification.* The number of officer Military Occupational Specialties has been reduced from 825 to 407 categories. Result: Broader training, less specialization.

2. *Raising of Standards.* Early in 1954, an involuntary release program involving 3200 Reserve officers included release of officers of marginal effectiveness. Standards for retention on active duty of officers who fail to attain a passing grade in service school courses have been made more strict. A group of 20,000 Regular Army enlisted men in the lower portion of Mental Group IV have been separated. Reenlistment standards have been raised. Result: Less quantity, more quality.

3. *Officer Training.* All newly commissioned Regular Army lieutenants of the combat arms are now required to take either Airborne or Ranger training. Of the West Point Class of 1954, 65 percent selected Airborne; the others chose Ranger training. Result: More aggressive leadership.

4. *Stability of Assignment.* Enlisted men returning from an oversea tour are assured of at least 18 months' service in the United States before they are again ordered overseas. Enlisted men who have 20 or more years of Army service are not sent overseas unless they volunteer. Result: More job stability; less family separation.

5. *Oversea Tours.* Extensions of oversea tours in the more desirable areas have been curtailed, providing more equal opportunity for men to serve in such areas as well as the less desirable ones such as Korea. Result: More equality of assignment.

6. *Resignations and Retirement.* Since 1 October 1953, Regular Army officers have been permitted to resign on request, subject to completion of their minimum service obligation.

Enlisted men with 20 years service and Regular officers with 30 years service are again being permitted to retire without restriction.

Voluntary 20-year retirement has been approved for Reserve officers without restriction, and for Regular officers on a liberalized hardship basis. Result: Better motivated officer and non-commissioned officer corps.

7. *New Uniform.* After extensive study and surveys, the Army has decided upon a new grey-green service uniform, subject to final Congressional approval. Result: Increased pride in soldierly appearance.

8. *Unit Traditions.* The history and achievements of Army units have been compiled and published, for use in indoctrinating members of units. Result: Increased esprit de corps.

9. *Commissary Surcharges.* Savings in overhead costs in the operation of sales commissaries have resulted in lowering the surcharge on items sold from 5 percent to 3½ percent in the United States and from 4 percent to 3 percent overseas. Result: Decreased cost-of-living.

10. *Enlisted Promotions.* School commandants may now promote deserving enlisted men while they are students at service schools in courses of 20 weeks or more duration, and thus are absent from their units. Result: More job satisfaction.

11. *Leave for Oversea Personnel.* On 17 May 1954, the Department of the Army authorized travel in a duty status for personnel returning from overseas on morale and reenlistment leave, so that their leave time does not begin until arrival in the United States. The former practice caused personnel to use

up much of their leave time while awaiting transportation or while enroute. Result: More time in the United States.

III. Army Actions in Progress.

1. *Separation of Noncommissioned Officer Leaders from Specialists.* A plan to identify noncommissioned officers as only those who exercise command and leadership functions, with a separate distinction for technical and administrative specialists in the same pay grades, has been approved. Target date for implementation is 1 January 1955. Purpose: Increased prestige of noncommissioned officers; improved leadership and discipline. (See "Leaders and Specialists for Enlisted Grades," page 8.)

2. *Assignment of Master Sergeants.* The Department of the Army has under consideration a proposal to establish centralized control of assignment, by name, of enlisted men in the grade of master sergeant, similar to the system used for officer assignments. Purpose: Increased sense of individual worth of noncommissioned officers.

3. *Concurrent Travel.* The Department of the Army is working toward restoration of concurrent travel of dependents with their sponsor to oversea stations as soon as possible. Target date is 1 January 1955 for all oversea stations world-wide except in Far East Command. Purpose: Less family separation.

Status of dependent travel as of June 1954 was:

Alaska—9 weeks delay
Austria—15 weeks delay
England—(dependent on private housing)
Formosa—22 weeks delay
France—(dependent on private housing)
Germany—36 weeks delay

Hawaii—concurrent
Japan—16 to 92 weeks delay
Okinawa—14 weeks delay
Panama—28 weeks delay
Puerto Rico—concurrent
Turkey—concurrent (if dependent travel authorized)

4. *Unit Replacement.* A plan is being developed by the Department of the Army to inaugurate rotation of battalions and regiments between the United States and oversea theaters, beginning sometime in calendar year 1955, instead of rotating individuals. Purpose: Increased stability of assignment; better team spirit.

5. *Off-Post Saluting.* The custom and requirement of saluting by military personnel in uniform will again be observed off-

post as well as within the confines of military posts, beginning 1 September 1954. Purpose: More esprit de corps.

6. *Enlisted Military Occupational Specialties.* A proposal to reduce substantially the number of enlisted Military Occupational Specialist classifications is under study in the Department of the Army. Purpose: Simplified assignment procedures.

7. *Regular Army Augmentation.* A proposal to offer Regular Army appointments to qualified Reserve officers on active duty has been submitted to the Defense Department. Purpose: Career status for officers appointed.

8. *Reserve Officer Program.* Study is in progress on proposals to provide better security and incentives for Reserve officers who serve on active duty for extended periods. Included are provisions for contract tours, and for rehabilitation pay in the event of relief from duty. Purpose: Increased job satisfaction.

9. *Improved Quarters for Female Officers.* Minimum standards for Government quarters provided for female officers are being established by the Department of the Army. Purpose: Better living conditions.

10. *Regimental Bands.* A study has been initiated to restore unit bands in infantry regiments and division artillery. Purpose: Increased esprit de corps.



The foregoing actions are representative of the continuing program in progress. Additional measures are contemplated, or under consideration for possible action. These include measures to enhance the positions of the First Sergeant and the Sergeant Major, reviving interest in badges denoting qualification in arms, and adoption of an Army Marching Song.

Greater Effectiveness For Infantry Units

Sergeant Raymond J. Buck, Jr.

BATTLE TESTED veterans of "Heartbreak Ridge" and "Old Baldy" came back from the scarred slopes of Korea with the idea that the Army's Queen of Battle needed a bit of sprucing up. Operation Falcon at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, was planned and carried out to do just that.

The Army wanted to know by fact and demonstrated performance, rather than from opinion and theory, if certain proposals for revision of the infantry regiment could be carried out in the field as effectively as at the conference table. Primarily, it sought to learn how it could increase fire power, improve tactical control and use its manpower more advantageously under simulated combat experiences. It was a job that had to be done thoroughly.

In selecting Fort Bragg as the site, and units of the XVIII Airborne Corps as the agencies for testing the proposed changes, those in charge of the project secured ample space and qualified personnel to carry out their studies. The operation was named Falcon, from the nickname of the 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment of the 82d Airborne Division, the unit selected to undergo the test reorganization.

Before changing the make-up of the regiment, the Falcon planners had to make sure that the officers and men of the 325th were completely schooled in the proposed operational form. The extensive training that occupied most of Phase I and II was necessary to guarantee that the final comparisons between old and new infantry regiments would be as marked and as true a representation as possible.

Phase I, with its training and its changes in basic organiza-

SERGEANT RAYMOND J. BUCK, JR., is on the staff of the Public Information Office, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

tion of the rifle squads, set the stage for all of the activities to follow. Phase II carried on the training and began the testing of platoon, company and battalion roles. Phase III put the 325th to a series of tests at the regimental level. Phase IV was a division-level exercise during which the reorganized regiment was compared with a normal infantry regiment. Both units were from the 82d Airborne Division.

Training was the key word in Phase I and the early stages of Phase II with emphasis on the basic Army unit, the squad. All squads in the infantry regiment were closely scrutinized by Falcon observers. The most important changes occurred in the rifle squad of the rifle company.

With the addition of two men and an automatic rifle to the important nine-man rifle and BAR squad, the Falcon testers increased fire power where it matters most—to the individual infantryman. This augmented squad is really nothing new to the Army; in fact the rifle squad has had eleven men in the past counting the eighteen fillers formerly assigned to company headquarters. However, the particular manner in which those eleven men were used was in itself a realistic approach to bringing out the squad's most effective fighting potential.

The testing was designed to determine if the eleven man squad was small enough to be controlled efficiently and yet large enough to sustain its combat capability by being able to suffer losses in manpower and still fight as a team.

The added automatic rifle brings more fire power to the squad and with a proper displacement of weapons, it provides a much wider fire coverage area than is the case in the regular basic squad unit. Those in charge of the project examined every phase of squad operations to determine the best methods of control. One proposed method of intrasquad control involved the section chief principle within the eleven-man unit.

Taking to the field with added fire power and manpower, the new rifle squads were tested for maneuverability, for squad leader control and for adaptation of the men to their new duties. Before launching into problems of attack and defense, the riflemen were drilled in the concept and practice of their new organization. Throughout the lengthy Falcon exercise, the men in these squads were kept at a high training peak and encouraged to strive for ever increasing intrasquad co-operation.

As the rifle squads went through their assigned problems,

Falcon observers sought to discover which man could be used best as a carrier of a grenade launcher, or what type and how much ammunition could be carried to give the greatest power potential. With two automatic weapons to utilize, the squad leader had to keep even closer control of his men. In field exercises and in firing practice the men in the rifle squads worked to achieve close co-operation and increased mobility as they adapted themselves to the new system. The testers meanwhile looked for advantages and disadvantages in every feature, even down to the selection of proper grade for the men.

The riflemen were not the only ones concerned with the make-up of their squads. In the weapons squads of the rifle platoons the observers sought to learn if the supporting weapons (.30-caliber air cooled light machine guns) were capable of giving the needed push to this new rifle platoon. Increased fire power was brought about by adding another light machine gun.

Communications were studied while the men engaged in light machine gun squad operations on support missions. Handling of ammunition also was carefully analyzed for speedier, more effective distribution. The 3.5-inch rocket launcher previously assigned to the weapons squad was transferred to platoon headquarters so that this squad truly became a light machine gun squad. This gave the revised regiment the advantage of having both light and heavy machine gun sections.

In the heavy machine gun squad and the 57-mm. recoilless rifle squad (both of the Weapons Platoon) the potentialities and adaptability of the squad leader-gunner concept and of new weapons introduced under the proposed plan underwent rugged and thorough scrutiny. The squad leader-gunner concept had been considered for use in the 60-mm. mortar squad but had not been accepted as a feasible subject for testing.

Previously grouped in a separate company, the heavy machine guns became a Heavy Machine Gun Section of the rifle company's Weapons Platoon.

In the field testing of the heavy machine gun squad, the concept of the squad leader-gunner under the new plan was kept under closest surveillance. After intensive training in class sessions, the Heavy Machine Gun squads moved out for initial testing. Field exercises attempted to find out if the squad leader could handle the fires of his section when he himself was functioning as a gunner. Changes were looked for in the re-

sponsibilities of the leader's personnel when he was the gunner. Could the squad leader properly supervise the squad's movement into position? Was he in a position to co-ordinate the transportation for this section?

In working with the Heavy Machine Gun squad, the Falcon analysts moved it through its duties in simulated combat and watched to see if the methods of communication between the squad and its platoon leader were suitable, whether radio communication would be necessary and whether the squad leader could transmit instructions to his assistants and gunners.



Jeep-borne 105-mm rifles and other heavy support weapons are displayed during one of the inspection periods.

U.S. Army Photograph

The squad moving into action was scrutinized to see if this type of section could displace effectively by squad echelon, hand-carrying their weapons. Throughout field training, the observers sought to find out if the squad's crew-served weapons were adequate for their mission in support of the riflemen.

Along with the heavy machine gun punch provided by the proposed change, the weapons platoon also obtained fire power from its 60-mm. mortar and 57-mm. recoilless rifle squads. In

the proposed infantry rifle company the combination of these support weapons, teamed up to aid the rifle squads, would be capable of giving the company commander a solid core of support fire power right in his own unit.

During the test, these two weapons squads were checked for adaptability to changing combat conditions and the ability to move quickly and effectively. The role of the squad leader in these basic units was again under close scrutiny. Could the 57-mm. squad leader supervise his squad's movement and re-supply of ammunition during the firing? Under realistic conditions, observers sought to learn if the control of the 57-mm. recoilless rifle squad leader in directing and adjusting his squad's firing was adequate when he himself was operating as a gunner. Transportation provided in section headquarters for the squads was double-checked.

The Falcon officers experimented with 75-mm. recoilless rifles by employing them in the rifle platoon as a replacement for the 57's. The 75's had previously been used in higher command levels but had been replaced by the 105-mm. recoilless rifles.

The rifle companies had greater power with the addition of the heavy machine gun squad, the light machine gun and the automatic rifle, and the battalion gained even more power with the eight 105-mm. recoilless rifles mounted on jeeps for swift movement afield. The 105's were brought in to take the place of the 75-mm. recoilless rifles. They were put into the battalion commander's hands by being placed with Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the battalion.

In addition the battalion commander had in this company the 81-mm. mortars previously in the Heavy Weapons Company. Men were added to the 81-mm. mortar section to provide for a forward observer team for each rifle company. Observers with the companies were able to give the battalion headquarters mortarmen first-hand information as to where the riflemen needed mortar support.

The Battalion Headquarters Company went to the field training with an observer-sniper squad supplementing the snipers in the rifle squads.

Wire teams were added to the rifle company and were doubled in number for battalion and regiment with a decreased number of men in each team. The policy calling for added teams with fewer men in each enabled the wiremen to work on more pro-

jects with the same efficiency, thus from the Falcon officers' standpoint utilizing manpower most effectively.

The battalion also was given a combined maintenance and supply section. This, plus the increased weapons support and flexibility and range of communications, was designed to make each battalion a better balanced and more self-contained combat unit, capable in an emergency of operating away from the regiment on a self-sufficient basis for short periods of time.

In the battalion and company level field problems, Falcon observers put the proposed organization through a series of exercises to test the flexibility of the battalion's operations under a tactical situation. Bivouac areas were established near Mott Lake on the Fort Bragg reservation and training was continued. Gun crews drilled with their new weapons, and rifle squads continued getting accustomed to the new tactics. Headquarters personnel carried on administrative work in the field.

Field training began with the rifle and weapons squads engaging in attack and defensive maneuvers and tactics. Phase I and the early weeks of Phase II had run together in the training

A bazooka team prepares to knock out an Aggressor tank during the final phase of Operation Falcon.

U.S. Army Photograph



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Mortarmen fire a 4.2-inch weapon—one of the heavy support types in the proposed new infantry regiment.

U.S. Army Photograph

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and preliminary testing of primary features of reorganization.

In this period new communications systems were tried and employed in combat-simulated conditions before being used in the larger-scale regimental and division field testing exercises. The Battalion Combat Team, under test, countered "enemy" action by moving quickly and decisively against Aggressor road blocks, flank attacks and counterattacks.

The Heavy Mortar Company was trained in methods of support in the attack, and in the attack and defense of a river line. The company, composed of 4.2-inch mortars, worked out with support drills. It incorporated the counterfire platoon and with its own three heavy mortar platoons was able to provide extra heavy support fire. Each platoon was given a forward observer team of three men which kept the rifle companies supplied with ample heavy support mortar fire to meet their individual needs.

In the administrative, medical and service sections, minor changes were effected to bring about smoother, quicker functioning, while saving manpower. Each support section was brought up to date in the proposed changes.

Morale was high in both the combat and administrative units as the 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment moved into the final weeks of Phase II. Its members, many of them veterans of World War II and Korea, were well trained in the new procedures and with the new weapons. Officers and noncommissioned officers alike had begun to feel at ease with the new make-up.

At this point in the exercise, the First Battalion of the 325th was given the opportunity to try its training in a large-scale problem. But before they were allowed to take up the attack, intensive inspections were conducted to make sure that all equipment was present and serviceable.

A company commander, veteran of recent combat in Korea, put it this way: "This redistribution of weapons makes me a lot more support-conscious. Now I know why the battalion commander used to nag me into using 81's and 75's. I've got somewhat the same problem now with my platoon leaders, but I've got my finger on them and we're going to use that support when and where it counts."

One rifle squad leader, a noncommissioned officer who had led combat patrols in Europe and Korea, said, "If I had had a squad like this in Korea, I could have gone anywhere, anytime. Those two BAR's make a good base of fire. It's good to know that the company commander can back us up with heavy stuff when we need it."

A platoon leader in the 325th's Third Battalion thought the new Falcon platoon was easy to handle, big enough to show real power, but not so big as to be awkward if it had to tighten up and hold its own.

Before Phase II was brought to a close the Falcon testers put the battalions through trials covering advance to contact, attack, defense and retrograde movements. The battalion organization under the proposed system was further tested for fire power, communications and command control.

When the First Battalion was selected to move in mock attacks on the Aggressor Forces at Bragg's Blue Mountain, the Battalion Combat Team's actions were closely watched.

The Regimental Phase III that followed had the specific purpose of standardizing tactical employment of organic, attached and supporting units. Early activity consisted of refresher training on weapons, equipment maintenance, tactical employment and organization, and conduct of unit schools.

Before starting the comprehensive eleven-day field training exercise tests, Falcon observers explored the administrative, tactical and logistical aspects of support, rifle, medical and headquarters companies. Later they noted how these various activities contributed to regimental level co-ordination.

Field operations of the 325th during this phase involved a defense on a wide front, possible atomic attack, counterattack to restore the Main Line of Resistance, daylight relief in place, attack and pursuit. Co-ordination, communications, use of transportation and vigor of attack were rated as excellent.

During Phase IV, high ranking observers from the Department of the Army and the Office of the Chief of Army Field Forces witnessed the comparison testing of the new style regiment working with a standard airborne regiment. The 505th Airborne Infantry Regiment took the part of Aggressor against the 325th's new organization, and the 504th Airborne Infantry Regiment became the sister regiment to the 325th on the United States Forces side. Thus the whole of the 82d Airborne Division, including tankers of the 44th and 714th Tank Battalions, moved to the field for the final testing.

Phase IV was broken down into three general operations—Able—offensive action; Baker—delaying action; and Charlie—defensive action on an extended front. Effectiveness of the revamped 325th was compared with the unaltered units of the sister 504th Airborne Infantry Regiment.

This final phase had a threefold purpose—to evaluate the new regiment by comparison; to determine the practicality of changes in relation to the tactical and administrative problems in such a large operation; and to study the increase in fire power, manpower and control.

In "Able", with the United States Forces of the 325th and 504th out to seize from the Aggressors the high ground near Aberdeen, North Carolina, the United States Forces advance guard was forced to deploy and engage the enemy. After strong night patrols and Aggressor counterattacks, the 325th penetrated Aggressor lines in the north while the 504th was enveloping the south flank of the enemy. Observers meanwhile analyzed the advantages and disadvantages of the new infantry regiment plan in attack.

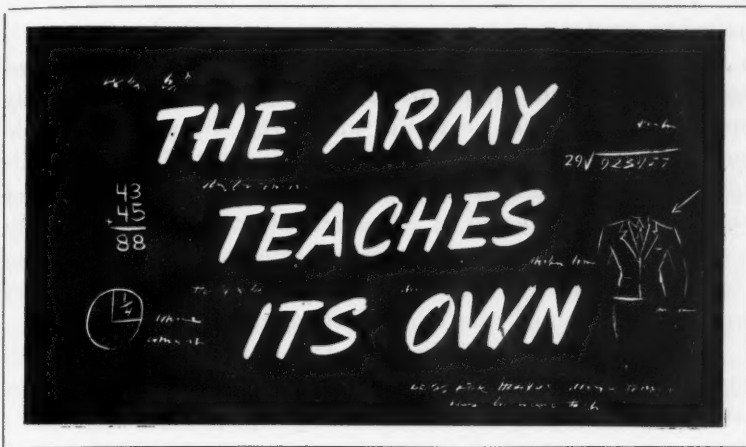
"Baker" involved delaying action and tactical withdrawals, both day and night, with each regiment of the United States

Forces carrying out each action individually to give the Falcon observers ample opportunity for comparison. Phase "Charlie" offered a variety of tactical situations. These included a simulated A-bomb attack and a co-ordinated attack by the two comparison regiments which aided the observers in their study of extended front defenses. The defensive situation began with the 325th holding an extended front. It continued in the darkness when the 504th moved in and relieved the 325th on the line.

Throughout Operation Falcon and especially during the final phase, the high morale of the men of the 82d Airborne Division contributed to the over-all success of the test. And although it is now too early to tell just what effect this field testing of the proposed infantry regiment will have on the Army's future plans, the resulting evaluation will certainly play a prominent part in any decisions affecting the Army of the future and its organization.

Remember that the be-all and end-all of an officer is to be a leader. The qualities that distinguish an officer from other men are courage, initiative, will-power and knowledge.

Field Marshal Sir William Slim



Lieutenant Colonel Paul A. Loomis

CHANCES ARE that a majority of the men who served in the ranks to help make the Declaration of Independence the basis for a new Republic could not even read that famous document. At the time of the Revolution and up to comparatively recent years, lack of primary schooling or even illiteracy did not mean much as far as fulfilling routine military tasks was concerned. But with increasing complexity of arms, equipment and formations, and with continual dispersion of units and individuals over a battlefield, it now is an inescapable necessity for everybody in the Army to be able to read and understand orders and to comprehend lectures and manuals.

Despite the fact that a free education is available to everybody and that the United States has one of the lowest illiteracy rates in the world, experience shows that about one out of twenty men entering the Army today has either less than a fourth grade education or is unable to pass an educational achievement test at that level.

According to a study conducted by the Bureau of the Census in October 1952 there were 428,000 males between 14 and 24 years of age in this country who either were actually illiterate or had not completed more than four grades of school. From this it is apparent at once that the Army will continually face

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the problem of what to do with men of this group who are called to service.

It might well be said that the Army should not be saddled with the task of education for which American taxpayers already spend so much every year. But unless the Army does provide some special training where it is needed, it will be difficult to utilize many thousands of men effectively. Indeed, many of the deficiencies revealed by educational tests are not necessarily a sign of low mental capacity. Rather they may merely indicate that the soldier lacked the opportunity to obtain schooling that would have enabled him to understand the tests.

The Army really is performing a double mission in providing needed basic education; one phase is of value to the Army while the second is a morale factor for the individual. It is extremely important, for instance, that men be able to read mail from home and further that they may write to relatives and friends whom they have left behind. The soldier is embarrassed if it is necessary for him to rely on a friend to read his correspondence for him and a morale problem is created when families do not receive word from their loved ones in service, simply because they cannot write.

For these reasons, under a new program which became operative 1 March 1954, enlisted personnel entering the Army without having attained a functional fourth grade education or its equivalent are being given training in the necessary academic subjects before starting basic combat training. Men requiring limited academic instruction are assigned initially to Transitional Training Units which combine basic education with instruction in group living, citizenship, adaptation to military life and selected basic military subjects. After completing this phase, the men begin the regular eight-week basic combat training program at the same camp where they received their transitional training—a plan which eliminates travel expense.

Previously the Army had put inductees through basic training and then had provided for their education, largely because it was considered more essential to get men to their ultimate destination as quickly as possible in order to have maximum time left for economical utilization in a unit assignment. This often imposed an added burden on the oversea commander. However the need for men in the Far East after 1950 precluded changes in the educational program up to this time.

The problem of illiteracy in the Army was recognized in all its magnitude during World War I when it was found that one quarter of those tested for "ability to read and understand newspapers and to write letters" were unable to do the simple tasks assigned to them.

Since the beginning of World War II the Army has been even more acutely conscious of the problems posed by the illiterate, the non-English speaking individual, or the soldier who had completed less than four years of civilian schooling. Early in World War II commanders of armies, corps, divisions and service commands were directed to establish special training units for men in these groups. Between June 1943 and July 1945, a total of 302,838 men were enrolled in such units and of this number 254,272 completed the program.

With the end of the war and the expectation that the Army would decrease to a size that could be supported by enlistments, the special training units were disbanded. However, by 1949 it was apparent that many men lacking a fourth or fifth grade education still were entering the Army; consequently Army Regulation 355-30, dated 21 June 1949, embodied the concept of academic education for men who had not completed fifth grade or whose Army General Classification Test score (convertible to present Aptitude Area I) was under 70, or who could not write and speak English with the fluency of an adult who had completed fifth grade. This regulation authorized basic education classes on duty time except during basic training.

Figures on the number of men entering the Army who possessed Aptitude Area I scores of less than 70 are not available prior to February 1952; but between that time and through January 1954, a total of 138,904 were recorded. When it is considered that the basic education category also includes men who have less than a completed fourth grade education, it is apparent that the number of men needing basic education is indeed a large one.

A fifth grade education was considered to be highly desirable, but the Korean crisis led to a reduction in requirements to that of completed fourth grade for units in the United States and in the Far East; however it was maintained at fifth grade level for Alaska, Caribbean, European and other oversea commands. The reduction was authorized because a large number of units had been called from reserve status and it was felt

that as much time as possible had to be devoted to increasing their military proficiency quickly. In the Far East, units were excused from mandatory basic education requirements due to combat conditions and the difficulties of securing qualified instructors. For the sake of uniformity, a standard of completed fourth grade was adopted Army-wide in 1953.

In putting into effect its newly adopted plan for giving basic education prior to basic training, the Army was able to utilize the preliminary findings of an experimental project which was established in January 1953 at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Even while hostilities continued in Korea, the Army had been looking forward to the time when the need for militarily trained men in the fighting area would diminish and more emphasis could be placed on the problem of basic education. Accordingly, an experiment known as the Basic Education Project (BEP) was begun in the 6th Armored Division.

Those assigned to the BEP were given diagnostic tests to determine their academic strengths and weaknesses so that instruction could be directed toward remedying deficiencies. They attended classes for a maximum of 96 hours of academic instruction plus another 25 hours in military subjects. Military training was conducted by an officer and four assigned enlisted men, assisted by four other enlisted men from the leadership course at the post. Teachers in the academic courses were qualified civilians, often wives of military personnel.

As soon as the instructors considered that a man had mastered the fourth grade requirements, USAFI Achievement Tests were administered. If the individual passed he was immediately transferred to a Basic Training Unit. This allowed him to progress as swiftly as his capabilities permitted.

A control group was set up to help determine the effectiveness of the program. By random selection, 20 percent of the men who required instruction were assigned directly to basic combat training and their progress was compared with that of members of the group who received the academic instruction.

Between January and August 1953, a total of 1501 men were assigned to the BEP and 1158 completed the fourth grade after receiving not more than 96 hours of academic instruction.

Classes were conducted at four grade levels. If tests showed that a man was fitted for third grade subjects, he was placed in the equivalent grade. Thus those with higher grade placement

scores were not required to take the lower level work.

In September 1953, based upon the experience gained in the BEP program, the character of the entire project was changed in several ways. Criteria for assignment were changed so that anyone with an Aptitude Area III score of 75 or less was placed in the project and instructed at his appropriate grade level even though such instruction might be beyond fourth grade. Time allotted to military subjects was increased to 50 percent and the academic curriculum was expanded.

In January 1954 the program was adopted Army-wide. Evaluation of the BEP was carried out by a research organization which collected and tabulated the experimental data, as well as by civilian educators who visited the project. Instructions were issued in January to the continental Armies, through the Office of the Chief of Army Field Forces, that effective 1 March 1954 basic education would be provided under control of the training division or replacement training center at each post having a reception station. Such training units are currently being conducted at Fort Bliss, Texas; Camp Chaffee, Arkansas; Fort Dix, New Jersey; Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Knox, Kentucky; Fort Ord, California; and Fort Leonard Wood.

In this program the Transitional Training Unit receives men direct from the reception station located on the same post. Upon reporting to the station, USAFI Achievement Tests II are administered to all men whose Aptitude Area I score is 70 or below, or who admit to less than a completed fourth grade education. Those who lack a completed fourth grade education as revealed by the tests go directly to the Transitional Training Unit while all others go to basic combat training. Classes run continuously at each grade level; thus there is no time lag in waiting for a new class to start. Men receive individual attention within each class.

Each man undergoes a minimum of two weeks and a maximum of four weeks instruction. USAFI Achievement Tests II are administered each Friday to those who the instructors believe are ready for them. Those who meet the requirements are transferred to a basic combat training unit immediately. Those who remain at the end of the four week maximum period are also transferred, even though some of them may have shown they are incapable of learning and are already being processed for separation from service.

Although it is still too early to compile figures to show established trends, it is believed from experiences gained at Fort Leonard Wood that most men entering the new units will remain only two weeks and the program, in both military and academic subjects, has been constructed on this basis. Those requiring further instruction continue to receive academic work while they repeat the military subjects of the first two weeks.

Academic subjects include reading, writing, arithmetic and citizenship taught on the first through fourth grade levels. Military subjects are those which contain material most difficult to explain to men lacking an adequate vocabulary or an essential understanding of the fundamentals of arithmetic. For example, one period a week is devoted to explanation and memorization of the General Orders for guard duty. Certain fundamentals of military justice are presented in specially prepared pamphlets which compare civilian responsibilities and laws with those required by the Army. Map reading, which is allotted four hours during the two weeks, is limited to conventional signs and symbols, map scales, distances, co-ordinates and compass instruction.

While it is perhaps too early to fix requirements for proper management of the new Transitional Training Units, it is now apparent that only a small number of military personnel will be required as instructors. Most of the instruction, including that given in military subjects, is being conducted by civilian teachers employed on a contract basis.

The new Transitional Training Units are performing both to the advantage of the Army and to the men. The course itself, exactly as the name implies, provides a transition between life as a civilian and that as a soldier. It gives the Army an opportunity to observe for a four week period many men who otherwise would certainly be lost in the normal training program; thus a determination may be made more quickly as to whether or not an individual is to be retained in the service.

For the participants, the Transitional Training Unit offers to men who missed the opportunity in early life, a chance to begin their education.



LIKE ALL GOOD American citizens, Army personnel will be casting their votes this fall in elections affecting every member of the House of Representatives and one third of the Senate—and in many cases state and local offices as well.

But unlike most of their fellow citizens, Army personnel and often their dependents also, will usually be far from home. In order to exercise their franchise they must vote by mail.

Obviously casting a ballot through the machinery set up by the various states demands some extra time and effort; but judging by past elections Army personnel and their dependents will not shirk their duty. In fact, it was largely because of the needs and desires of members of the Army during the Civil War that most states first made provisions for absentee voting. During successive war periods when larger numbers of men were called to the colors, many new arrangements were made. (See "Soldier Voting—Then and Now," November 1952 DIGEST.)

In all states and territories of the United States, certain residence and sometimes educational or other qualifications must be met before the individual is allowed to vote. Once these qualifications are satisfied, the individual must usually register himself as a potential voter. Only Arkansas and Texas allow voting without prior registration. With registration completed, voting ordinarily is accomplished by going to the designated

polling place for that particular area, identifying oneself and casting the ballot in the privacy of a polling booth.

However it is obviously impossible for the citizen who is far from home to vote in this manner. Therefore most states have made provisions whereby the citizen may vote legally even though not in person. Each state differs in its qualifications, its registration requirements or arrangements and its machinery for absentee balloting. Only the state of New Mexico and the territories of Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands require voting in person.

QUALIFICATIONS—The first qualification for exercising the franchise is United States citizenship. In all states and territories except Georgia there is a minimum age limit set at 21. In Georgia alone the minimum voting age is 18.

To prevent multiple casting of votes, a person who meets the citizenship and age requirements, must establish a residence—that is, he or she must have lived in the state, county, city or voting precinct for a certain minimum time. This requirement is imposed in all states but the time element varies.

A few states also impose a poll tax as a voting qualification. During World War II, largely through efforts of the Armed Forces, this was generally waived for uniformed personnel and this exemption still holds true. However it is important to note that dependents, even if away from their homes accompanying their families, must meet poll tax requirements.

In recent years several states also have established minimum educational requirements. Usually these consist of the ability to read and write English but some states require the individual to be able to read and “understand the state constitution.”

REGISTRATION—This varies more widely from state to state than the basic qualifications. In some instances it even varies within a state. Originally the individual registered his name and address with the designated authorities at a fixed time prior to each separate election. Today however some states have permanent registration—that is, as long as the individual remains at the same address he continues to be carried on the registry rolls. He must, of course, register again if he moves to another precinct or county.

Some states continue the registration in force provided that the individual votes regularly—that is, by voting over a certain period of time, the name remains on the rolls but the regis-

tration lapses if no ballot is recorded as having been cast within a specified period.

Counties and even cities within the same state may have differing registration requirements. Registration may be permanent in some cities or counties but in others the voter may be required to register prior to each election. In other states registration is required only for local elections while in still others it is required only in cities of a certain size.

The actual act of registration also varies. Some states require the individual to appear in person while in others he may fill in and mail the necessary forms. Many states allow members of the Armed Forces to register by mail; some extend this privilege also to "certain civilians," usually those assigned or attached to the Armed Forces who under state law are given absentee voting privileges similar to Armed Forces personnel. But it should be noted that this may not include wives or other dependents. Some states also have waived all registration for Armed Forces personnel only—but again not necessarily for dependents. Some states allow re-registration by mail, once an individual has officially registered. Others make registration automatic when the individual applies for an absentee ballot and signs the necessary forms.

ABSENTEE VOTING—Most states now permit any person who is away from home (but who maintains or retains his domicile within the state) to cast his ballot by mail. A few, however, limit absentee voting to members of the Armed Forces only; thus dependents may not vote if they have accompanied the head of the household out of the state. A few also confine absentee voting privileges to the continental United States.

To procure an absentee ballot, application in all states must be made on the proper form. Through efforts of the War Department during World War II, many states accepted a Federal form provided for members of the Armed Forces then scattered throughout the world. Today the Federal Post Card Application (DD Form 76) is accepted by every state except Florida. Again it should be noted, however, that dependents or civilian employees of the Armed Forces serving abroad, may be required to procure the regulation form from state authorities.

Dates by which the application for an absentee ballot will be accepted also vary from state to state. In some instances the application may be made at any time; in others only following

a certain date; in still others only within a specified number of days before an election. Thus if a particular state specifies that the form will be accepted only within thirty days of the election date, the would-be voter's application will not be valid if it arrives in advance of that time.

Officials to whom the application should be made also differ in various states. In some instances it is a city or township clerk; in others the county clerk or the county auditor; in still others only the secretary of state of the state government.

Each state also has established procedures for mailing the ballot to the voter. Some states mail the ballot immediately on receipt of the application; others will not mail it until twelve days before election. This sometimes works a hardship since there may be insufficient time allowed for a ballot to be sent to some distant place, marked and returned in time to be counted. The individual should therefore apply at the earliest date allowed by his state in order to insure that he may receive and return his ballot in time.

Similarly the deadline by which the marked ballot must be received in the state or voting district varies under state laws. The time ranges from a fixed time prior to the election, to the "day of election," or even to a specified time after election. In some states that accept the ballot after election day it must be postmarked prior to election day; in others it will be accepted if postmarked as late as election day.

In order to assist members of the Army and their dependents in casting their votes at the coming fall elections, a summary of qualifications, registration requirements, and absentee voting procedures for each state is presented below. In all states except Maine the general elections this year will come on 2 November. Maine elections take place on 13 September. No attempt has been made here to give dates or details concerning primary or run-off elections.

Abbreviations used in the summaries of state voting requirements which follow are:

QUAL.—Qualifications required for registration and voting.

REG.—Procedure for registration. Note that while some states exempt Armed Forces personnel from registration, that exemption does *not*, in many cases, include their dependents.

AVR.—Absentee voting requirements, including procedure for procuring and casting the absentee ballot.

ALABAMA: *QUAL.* 2 years in state, 1 year in county, 3 months in precinct; poll tax except for Armed Forces; read and write United States Constitution in English. *REG.* In person at office of Board of Registrars on first or third Mondays of each month; permanent; not permitted by mail. *AVR.* Only Armed Forces personnel and wives eligible; apply earliest, 40 days before election to County Registrar; ballot mailed earliest, 21 days before election; latest date accepted, day of election.

ARIZONA: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 30 days in county, 30 days in precinct; read United States Constitution; write name. *REG.* Request registration affidavit from County Recorder any time prior to 4 months before next general election; permanent if person votes regularly; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply earliest, 30 days before election to County Recorder; ballot mailed earliest, 30 days; accepted to 1800 hours on day of election.

ARKANSAS: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 6 months in county, 30 days in precinct; poll tax except for Armed Forces; no registration requirements for anyone. *AVR.* Apply earliest, 60 days before election to County Clerk; ballot mailed earliest, 30 days; accepted up to 1830 hours on day of election.

CALIFORNIA: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 90 days in county, 54 days in precinct; *REG.* Automatic when executed registration certificate which accompanies ballot has been accepted by election officials; permanent if person votes regularly; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply any time before election to County Clerk; ballot mailed earliest, 20 days; accepted 16 days after election if postmarked not later than day of election.

COLORADO: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 90 days in county, 15 days in precinct. *REG.* Request regis-

tration form from County Clerk prior to 15-day period before election; permanent if person votes regularly; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply earliest, 90 days before election to County Clerk; ballot mailed earliest, 30 days before election; accepted to 1700 hours on day of election.

CONNECTICUT: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 6 months in town or city; read State Constitution in English. *REG.* Request registration form from Town, Borough, or City Clerk at any time prior to election; permanent; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply earliest, 4 months before election to Town Clerk; ballot mailed on receipt of application; latest accepted, 1800 hours on day before election.

DELAWARE: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 3 months in county, 30 days in precinct; Read State Constitution in English; write name. *REG.* Automatic when executed registration certificate which accompanies ballot has been accepted by election officials; not permanent; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply any time to County Department of Election; ballot mailed earliest, 50 days before election; latest accepted, day of election.

FLORIDA: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 6 months in county. *REG.* Must register in person at office of Supervisor of Registrations prior to 30 days before election; permanent in some counties; initial registration not permitted by mail but may re-register by mail. *AVR.* Apply (on special Florida form) earliest, 45 days before election to County Supervisor of Registration; ballot mailed earliest, 45 days; latest accepted, 1700 hours on day before election.

GEORGIA: *QUAL.* Age 18; 1 year in state, 6 months in county. *REG.* Registration required before voting; permanent if person votes regularly; permitted by mail. Apply to County Tax Collector, Tax Commissioner or Registrar for "Military Regis-

tration Form" at any time before an election. *AVR.* Apply any time before general election to County Probate Judge; ballots mailed as soon as printed; latest accepted, day of election.

IDAHO: *QUAL.* 6 months in state, 30 days in county; read and write English. *REG.* Automatic when marked ballot is accepted by election officials; registration permanent if person votes regularly; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply earliest, 60 days before election to County Clerk; ballots mailed earliest, 30 days before election; latest accepted, day of election.

ILLINOIS: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 90 days in county, 30 days in precinct; *REG.* Armed Forces personnel not required to register; permanent if person votes regularly. *AVR.* Apply earliest, 100 days before election to County Clerk; ballots mailed earliest, 45 days before election; latest accepted, day of election.

INDIANA: *QUAL.* 6 months in state, 60 days in township, 30 days in precinct. *REG.* Automatic when application for absentee ballot has been accepted by election officials. *AVR.* Apply earliest, 60 days prior to general election to Clerk of Circuit Court of county; ballot mailed earliest, 60 days prior to general election; accepted to 1800 hours on day of election.

IOWA: *QUAL.* 6 months in state, 60 days in county, 10 days in precinct. *REG.* Some variation according to cities but service personnel need not register before voting since registration is automatic when marked ballot and executed affidavit on back of ballot envelope have been accepted by election officials; registration permanent in some cities and counties; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply any time to County Auditor; ballot mailed earliest, 55 days before election; latest accepted, day of election.

KANSAS: *QUAL.* 6 months in state, 30 days in ward or town-

ship. *REG.* Varies by cities; Armed Forces personnel and dependents not required to register for general election but registration regulations vary in different cities and counties as to permanency; not permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply earliest, 65 days prior to general election, to Secretary of State for Kansas; ballot mailed earliest, 25 days prior to general election; latest accepted, 0900 hours day before election.

KENTUCKY: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 6 months in county, 60 days in precinct. *REG.* Automatic when application for absentee ballot has been accepted by election officials; permanent if person votes regularly; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply any time before 10 days prior to election to County Clerk; ballot mailed as soon as available; latest accepted, day of election.

LOUISIANA: *QUAL.* 2 years in state, 1 year in parish, 3 months in precinct; read and write. *REG.* Must register in person at place of Louisiana residence at any time prior to 30 days before an election; registration permanent in some cities and counties; not permitted by mail. *AVR.* Only Armed Forces personnel and wives eligible; apply any time before election to Clerk of Parish Court; ballot mailed earliest, 30 days before election; latest accepted, day of election.

MAINE: *QUAL.* 6 months in state, 3 months in town or county; read and write English. *REG.* Automatic when application for absentee ballot has been accepted by election officials; registration permanent; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply any time to Town or City Clerk; ballot mailed earliest 30 days prior to state elections, 45 days prior to presidential election; latest accepted, day of election.

MARYLAND: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 6 months in county. *REG.* Automatic when executed affidavit on back of ballot envelope of re-

turned ballot has been accepted by election officials; permanent if person votes regularly; accepted by mail. *AVR.* Armed Forces personnel and certain qualified civilians eligible—may not include all dependents; apply within 55 days before election to Secretary of State, Annapolis, Maryland; ballot mailed earliest, 55 days before election; latest accepted, day of election.

MASSACHUSETTS: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 6 months in city or town; read State Constitution; write English. *REG.* Automatic when application for absentee ballot has been accepted by election officials; registration permanent; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply any time to City or Town Clerk; ballot mailed "in time to vote and return ballot"; latest accepted, day of election.

MICHIGAN: *QUAL.* 6 months in state, 30 days in city or township. *REG.* Required before voting; permanent; permitted by mail. Request "Registration Application Form" from City or Township Clerk and return it prior to 30th day preceding election. *AVR.* Apply within 75 days before election to City or Township Clerk; ballot mailed earliest, 45 days before election; latest accepted, day of election.

MINNESOTA: *QUAL.* Six months in state; 30 days in election district. *REG.* Required in certain cities; request "Registration Application" form from City Clerk prior to a 20-day period preceding election; permanent in some cities and counties; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Armed Forces personnel and certain qualified civilians anywhere, all others if in United States; apply within 30 days before election to County Auditor; ballot mailed 12 days before election; latest accepted, day of election.

MISSISSIPPI: *QUAL.* 2 years in state, 1 year in election district; poll tax except for Armed

Forces personnel and wives; read and understand State Constitution. *REG.* Request "Registration Form" from City or County Clerk when applying for absentee ballot; registration permanent; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply any time before election to County Registrar; ballot mailed as soon as printed; latest accepted, day of election.

MISSOURI: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 60 days in county, city or town. *REG.* In cities over 10,000, Armed Forces personnel not required to register but dependents should check status; registration permanent in certain cities. *AVR.* Apply any time to Clerk of County Court; ballot mailed earliest, 60 days before election; latest accepted, 1800 hours day after election.

MONTANA: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 30 days in county and precinct. *REG.* All must register; apply to County Clerk for "War Registration Card" at any time except during 45-day period before election; permanent if person votes regularly; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Armed Forces personnel, certain qualified civilians anywhere; others only if in United States or a Territory. Apply earliest, 45 days before election to County Clerk; ballot mailed earliest, 30 days before election; latest accepted, day of election.

NEBRASKA: *QUAL.* 6 months in state, 40 days in county, 10 days in precinct. *REG.* Required in cities over 7,000; request "Registration Forms" from County Clerk when applying for absentee ballot; registration permanent only in some places until 1956; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply to City or County Clerk within 90 days before election; ballot mailed earliest, 15 days before election; accepted up to 1000 hours on second Thursday after election, but marked ballot envelope must be postmarked not later than midnight of day before election.

NEVADA: *QUAL.* 6 months in state, 30 days in county, 10 days in precinct. *REG.* Armed Forces personnel and certain qualified civilians not required to register but dependents must; registration permanent if person votes regularly. *AVR.* Apply within 90 days before election to County Clerk; ballots mailed as soon as printed; latest accepted, day of election.

NEW HAMPSHIRE: *QUAL.* 6 months in state, 6 months in precinct. *REG.* Person must have name on "Voter's Check List" but in absentee voting, name is placed on this list automatically when application for ballot has been accepted by election officials; registration permanent; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply any time to Secretary of State, Concord, New Hampshire; ballots mailed earliest, 20 days before election; latest accepted, day of election.

NEW JERSEY: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 5 months in county. *REG.* Armed Forces personnel not required to register but dependents must; registration permanent if person votes regularly. *AVR.* Apply any time to County Clerk; ballot mailed earliest, 24 days before election; latest accepted, day of election.

NEW MEXICO: No absentee voting permitted.

NEW YORK: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 4 months in county, 30 days in precinct. *REG.* Automatic when application for absentee ballot has been accepted by election officials; not permanent; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply any time to Secretary of State, Albany, New York; ballot mailed 11 October; latest accepted, 1200 hours 23 November, but must be voted and/or postmarked not later than day of election.

NORTH CAROLINA: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 4 months in precinct, read and write State Constitution. *REG.* Automatic

when application for ballot has been accepted by election officials; permanent; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply any time to Chairman, County Board of Elections; ballot mailed earliest, 60 days before election; latest accepted, 1500 hours on day of election.

NORTH DAKOTA: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 90 days in county, 30 days in precinct. *REG.* Registration is for local elections only; Armed Forces personnel not required to register; not permanent. *AVR.* Apply within 30 days before election to County Auditor; ballot mailed earliest, 21 days before election; latest accepted, 20 days after election.

OHIO: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 40 days in county, 40 days in precinct. *REG.* Armed Forces personnel not required to register but dependents must be registered voters in some counties; permanent if person votes regularly. *AVR.* Apply after 1 January of election year to Clerk, County Board of Election; ballot mailed earliest, 60 days before election; latest accepted 1200 hours on day of election.

OKLAHOMA: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 6 months in county, 30 days in precinct. *REG.* Armed Forces personnel and certain qualified civilians and dependents not required to register. *AVR.* Apply any time to Secretary of State, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; ballot mailed as soon as available; latest accepted, 1900 hours on day of election.

OREGON: *QUAL.* 6 months in state, read and write English. *REG.* Automatic when application for ballot has been accepted by election officials; permanent if person votes regularly; accepted by mail. *AVR.* Apply earliest, 60 days before election to County Clerk; ballot mailed 60 days before election; latest accepted, 5 days before day of election.

PENNSYLVANIA: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 2 months in

precinct. *REG.* Armed Forces personnel not required to register but others must; permanent if person votes regularly. *AVR.* Only Armed Forces personnel and hospitalized veterans eligible; apply any time to Secretary of State, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; ballot mailed at least 25 days before election; latest accepted, 1000 hours on second Friday after election, but must be postmarked not later than day of election.

RHODE ISLAND: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 6 months in town or city. *REG.* Armed Forces personnel and certain qualified dependents not required to register but dependents must be registered voters; permanent if performed since 1952. *AVR.* Apply any time to Secretary of State, Providence, Rhode Island; ballot mailed "about" 20 days before election; latest accepted, 4 December, but must be postmarked not later than day of election.

SOUTH CAROLINA: *QUAL.* 2 years in state, 1 year in county, 4 months in precinct; read and write State Constitution or own \$300 in property. *REG.* Required of all; request "Registration Card" from Board of Registration and return executed application not later than 30 days before election; permanent for ten years; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Armed Forces personnel and certain qualified civilians eligible; apply any time to County Board of Registration; ballot mailed as soon as available; latest accepted, day of election.

SOUTH DAKOTA: *QUAL.* 5 years in United States, 1 year in state, 90 days in county, 30 days in precinct. *REG.* All must register; request "Registration Affidavit" form from County Auditor and return executed form not later than 20 days before election; permanent if person votes regularly; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply any time to County Auditor; ballot mailed earliest, 70 days

before a general election; latest accepted, day of election.

TENNESSEE: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 6 months in county. *REG.* Automatic when an absentee Armed Forces ballot is voted but dependents must be registered; permanent if person votes regularly; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply any time prior to 10 October if in zone of interior or prior to 1 September if overseas, to County Election Commissioner; ballot mailed as early as 15 October if in zone of interior, 10 September if overseas; latest accepted, day of election.

TEXAS: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, six months in county; poll tax except Armed Forces personnel. *REG.* No registration requirements for anyone. *AVR.* All persons except regular Armed Forces eligible; apply any time to County Clerk; ballot mailed as soon as possible; ballot must be voted between 20th day and 3d day prior to election (as shown by postmark); latest accepted, up to 1300 hours on day of election.

UTAH: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 4 months in county, 60 days in precinct. *REG.* Automatic when executed affidavit on back of ballot envelope has been accepted by election officials; permanent if person votes regularly; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply any time to County Clerk; ballot mailed as soon as printed; latest accepted, 1800 hours on day of election.

VERMONT: *QUAL.* 1 year in state; have name on "Voters' Check List." *REG.* All must register; permanent; permitted by mail by requesting "Freeman's Oath Form" from Town Board of Selection at any time. *AVR.* Apply any time to County Clerk; ballot mailed earliest, 30 days before election; latest accepted, day of election.

VIRGINIA: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 6 months in county, 30

days in precinct; poll tax except for Armed Force personnel. *REG.* Armed Forces personnel not required to register but dependents must; permanent; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply earliest, 90 days prior to election if overseas, 60 days if in zone of interior to Secretary of State, Richmond, Virginia; ballot mailed in same time limitations; latest accepted, day of election.

WASHINGTON: *QUAL.* 1 year in state; 90 days in county; 30 days in precinct; read and speak English. *REG.* Automatic when executed registration certificate which accompanies ballot has been accepted by election officials; permanent if person votes regularly; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply following 1 July to Secretary of State, Olympia, Washington; ballot mailed earliest, 25 days before election; latest accepted, 15 days after general election; must be postmarked not later than day of election.

WEST VIRGINIA: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 60 days in county, 60 days in precinct. *REG.* All must register; request "Temporary Registration Form" from Clerk of County Court at any time; executed form must be received by Clerk not later than 10 days before election; permanent if person votes regularly; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply any time to County Clerk of Circuit Court; ballot mailed 70 days before election; latest accepted, day of election.

WISCONSIN: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 10 days in precinct. *REG.* Armed Forces personnel and certain qualified civilians not required to register but dependents must; permanent if required and person votes regularly. *AVR.* Apply 60 days before

election to County Clerk; ballot mailed "about" 21 days before election; latest accepted, day of election.

WYOMING: *QUAL.* 1 year in state, 60 days in county, 10 days in precinct; read State Constitution. *REG.* Automatic in general election when executed affidavit on back of absentee ballot envelope has been accepted by election officials; permanent if person votes regularly; permitted by mail. *AVR.* Armed Forces personnel and certain qualified civilians eligible anywhere, but all others only if in United States or a Territory; apply any time to County Clerk; ballot mailed as soon as printed; latest accepted, day of election.

ALASKA: *QUAL.* 1 year in Territory, 30 days in precinct; read United States Constitution, write English. *REG.* Required of all for certain municipal elections; must apply in person at seat of local government; not permanent; not permitted by mail. *AVR.* Apply 90 days prior to election to any Commissioner, district of residence; ballot mailed earliest, 90 days before election; latest accepted, must be postmarked not later than day of election.

HAWAII: No absentee voting permitted.

PUERTO RICO: No absentee voting permitted.

VIRGIN ISLANDS: No absentee voting permitted.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: No voting privileges available to residents.

They Slide for Life

Airman First Class Tom Pritchard

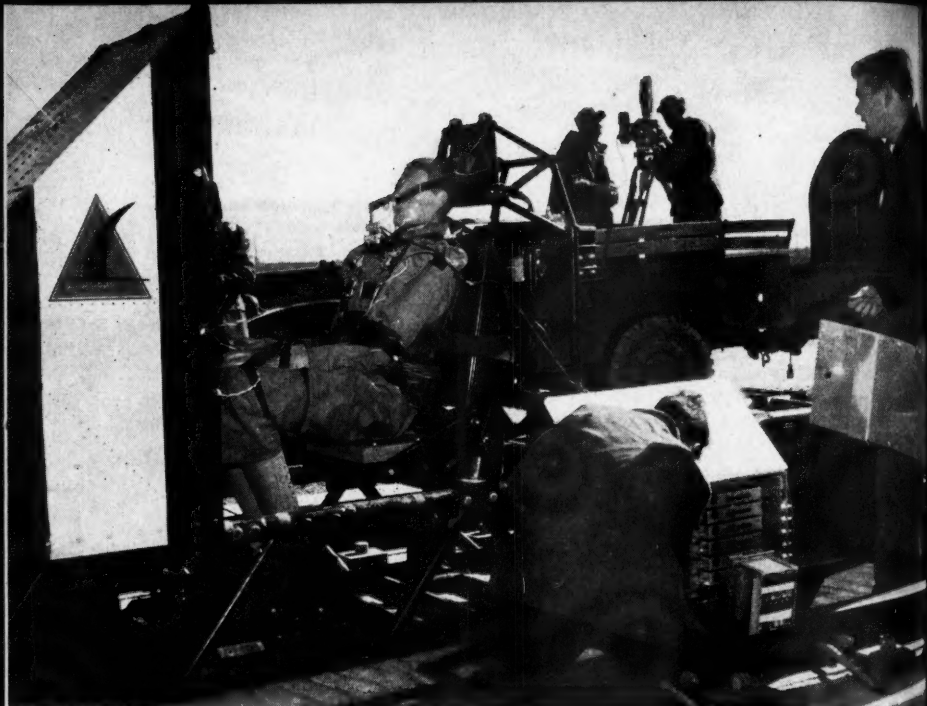
While this issue of the *DIGEST* was in preparation, the Air Force announced that Lieutenant Colonel John P. Stapp, Chief of the Aero Medical Field Laboratory at Holloman Air Force Base, successfully rode a rocket-propelled sled at a speed of 421 miles an hour, the fastest that man has ever travelled on the ground.—*Editor.*

SEVERAL MILES from the main base at Holloman Air Development Center, New Mexico, a strange scene unfolds. A group of men cluster around a complicated looking vehicle at the end of what resembles an oversized railroad track. Seated in the vehicle—called a sled—is a life-like dummy over which Air Force technicians swarm, attaching wires and instruments to its head, chest and thighs. Large restraining straps hold the dummy in place. When all arrangements have been completed, the group retires to the safety of a block house and a few moments later the familiar Air Force “count down” begins. Over a loud speaker comes “10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 . . . FIRE!”

Instantly there is a thundering roar as twenty-seven thousand pounds of rocket-thrust propel the sled and dummy down the track. Within seconds the sled accelerates from a motionless stand to a speed of nearly five hundred miles an hour; then mountains of water sluice into the sky as the vehicle is rapidly brought to a stop. The entire operation takes about eight seconds during which the sled travels two thirds of a mile. In this instance a dummy is riding, but soon human volunteers will be hurtling on the deceleration sled at speeds of nearly eight hundred miles an hour.

To the casual observer the circumstances might seem odd but without purpose. Actually, there is a studied plan underlying all this. The reason for sending dummies—or human

AIRMAN FIRST CLASS TOM PRITCHARD, USAF, is on duty with Office of Information Services, Holloman Air Development Center, New Mexico.



A carefully instrumented dummy is used to record reactions during a test run on the high speed sled.

U.S. Air Force Photograph

beings—racing down the tracks is part of the United States Air Force's Aero-Medical program—a program seeking to develop equipment and techniques which will save the lives of flyers who must bail out at high altitudes and supersonic speeds. The deceleration runs are but one phase of track testing, although they are perhaps the most dramatic.

The high speed track itself is a relatively new medium for testing and is an outgrowth of experimental work started at the close of World War II. When finally perfected, it was realized that the device could be used to produce the same effect as a wind tunnel. The only difference was that the object moved instead of the air.

Early trials of propellers, wings and tail sections were limited to speeds of a few hundred miles an hour. However these efforts proved the worth of the track system. As aircraft speeds increased, throwing heavy burdens on equipment testing facilities and making wind tunnel tests exceedingly expensive, the track was redesigned to meet the fast-changing requirements of the aviation world.

The high speed track at Holloman Air Development Center is thirty-six hundred feet (two-thirds of a mile) long and con-

sists of two rails, similar to those of a wide gauge railroad. The rails are laid in deep beds of reinforced concrete and are adjustable to tolerances of one-sixteenth of an inch. At any desired location in the trough between the rails, small plastic dams can be inserted and water penned in for a braking effect. The dams are at varying levels, resembling the locks of a canal. Beneath the sled are scoops which dip up the water and expel it, generating an effective and predictable braking force.

Two vehicles are used — the propulsion vehicle which weighs thirty-five hundred pounds and the "sled" which carries the item to be tested. The sled and items together weigh about a ton. There are no wheels on the propulsion vehicle but slippers which grip the rails. Speeds up to fourteen hundred miles an hour are possible depending upon the type of sled and the power of the propellant.

The track is operated and maintained by the 6580th Test Squadron (Special). Three sections—Engineering, Instrumentation and Services—support the test work. The Engineering section works in close co-ordination with the contractor who designs and builds the special sleds to Air Force specifications. The Instrumentation section sets up elaborate telemetering devices to gather data on the reaction of the test item to required speeds. The Services section installs the propulsion medium—generally from one to twelve rockets of varying thrust depending upon rate and duration of speed required.

Data to be gathered from high speed testing can be roughly divided into two categories—the effects on the human body and the effects on aircraft, missiles and rockets. The deceleration program soon to be launched with human beings—all of them volunteers—will determine human tolerances to deceleration, wind, blast and tumbling, all of which happen simultaneously during escape from a high velocity, high altitude aircraft. The equipment testing program now in progress enables contractors to try out their missile or rocket products at controlled speeds rather than in costly and inconclusive free flights.

Preparation for a run takes days and sometimes weeks. Endless adjustments must be made. Rockets must be installed, wiring must be checked and the subject thoroughly examined. Only when all tests on a carefully instrumented dummy show that no injuries will result will a human being be permitted to volunteer. To prevent internal injuries, he will abstain from the

preceding meal and will not drink water for an hour before. After a complete physical examination, including x-rays and blood tests, the subject will be seated in the sled, the rockets will be armed and spectators required to stand a safe distance from the rockets. As in other sled firings, a count down is announced over a loudspeaker at thirty-minute and then ten-minute intervals. Finally the last ten seconds are clocked off. The rockets will be ignited by remote control from the nearby blockhouse, causing the propulsion vehicle to drive the sled down the track at the desired speed. Afterward the subject will be given another complete medical examination and will report on his physiological reactions.

The resulting data will be used in the development of escape equipment. Some of the tests planned will simulate a bail-out from an open seat at 40,000 feet altitude while traveling at a speed of 1800 miles an hour.

Use of the high speed track for equipment testing has already saved American taxpayers thousands of dollars. Recently, for example, a guided missile contractor discovered that a serious tail flutter which developed seconds after launching, was causing the test missile to nose over and crash. Since the flutter occurred within a narrow speed range, free flight analysis of the difficulty was next to impossible.

Accordingly, Holloman track men were called in. They designed a sled to carry the missile and then set up extensive telemetering and photographic devices. The defective missile was sent down the track three times. As it hurtled by at the exact speed required to produce the tail flutter, cameras photographed it from every angle and electronic devices recorded the stress and strain on every square inch of the tail section. After those test runs and a complete analysis of the data, the contractor discovered the cause. The piece was redesigned and subsequently made successful flights. The rapid completion of this project alone saved thousands of dollars for the Government.

Largely as a result of the high speed track method of testing, valuable data have been gathered to enable designers to produce equipment and bail-out devices that will save lives. The benefits will not be limited to the Air Force alone, but will ultimately advance the safety of airborne troops and others who travel by air.

PARAGRAPHS

from

The Pentagon and the Field

President Eisenhower has signed legislation changing Armistice Day — 11 November each year — to Veterans Day, in honor of the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces.



Since June 1954 all newly commissioned Regular Army second lieutenants of the combat arms are being required to take airborne, ranger or basic infantry training. Infantry, artillery, engineer and armor officers must select either airborne or ranger training. Signal Corps officers will choose between airborne and basic infantry courses. The program is intended to acquaint officers of other arms with infantry operations and to promote higher standards of physical condition among junior officers.



Planned 30 June 1954 strength of the Armed Forces was 3,327,753, allocated as follows: Army, 1,407,200; Navy, 740,532; Marine Corps, 225,021; and Air Force, 955,000.



Direct commissions in the Women's Army Corps are being offered qualified college graduates in order to fill current vacancies in the WAC and to maintain reserve strength. Women accepted will be ordered to the new WAC Center at Fort McClellan, Alabama, for a 20-week training and orientation course in late August, or to subsequent classes to be held twice yearly.

Commissions as first lieutenants will be tendered successful applicants in the 28-33 age group, who have qualifying educational and professional experience totalling seven years. Women in the 21-27 age group, with four years qualifying education and experience, are eligible for commissions as second lieutenants.

Those accepted for commissioning directly from civilian life will enter on two or three years of active duty. Those eligible under regulations may apply for commissions in the Regular Army within a year after completion of training. Applicants must be United States citizens, single, or if married, without dependents or children under eighteen years of age.



The National Safety Council has presented to the Department of the Army an Award of Honor for outstanding achievements in safety during 1953.



Two unusual devices recently have been developed for use by medical personnel of the Armed Forces. The "Press-O-Jet," or painless jet pressure gun, is designed to replace the hypodermic needle, while a new electronic clinical thermometer which takes one's temperature in five seconds will no doubt take the place of the mercury glass rod instrument now in general use. But the Office of the Surgeon General advises that it will take considerable time before these innovations come into widespread use. So don't

look for the new instruments in your local hospitals and dispensaries for at least five years.



The Comptroller General has again ruled that allowances for travel of dependents and transportation of household goods to home location of choice upon retirement is limited to members of the regular components of the services. Reservists may receive allowances from their last duty station to place of last entry on active duty or to home of record only.



The armored vest developed by the Quartermaster Corps and made of laminated nylon fabric saved many lives during the Korean fighting. It is still undergoing continuous studies to reduce its weight and to provide greater freedom of movement than that afforded by present types. Experimental models are being designed to cover additional portions of the body; other studies are exploring the possibilities of combining armor into the standard field uniform.



The Armed Forces right to court-martial civilians for major crimes which they committed while they were in military service has been upheld in a ruling of the United States Court of Appeals.



Army ROTC graduates who receive commissions between 1 May 1954 and 30 April 1955 will be ordered to two years of active duty unless they are veterans of previous military service or are not liable to induction by Selective Service.

Those called out will be ordered to their branch service school at a date of their own choosing starting between 1 July 1954 and 30 June 1955. Those who are veterans or who do not come

under Selective Service will be commissioned but will not be called for active duty.

Medical, Dental and Veterinary officers will be called in accordance with priorities established under the Doctor Draft Act and will be assigned, meanwhile, to Army Reserve units.



Rough terrain fork lifts that have three and five-ton lifting capacities are being service tested in Korea by the Transportation Corps.



Measures recently completed would enable the installation of the Army Industrial Fund (management system) at the Chemical Corps' Camp Detrick, Maryland, beginning 1 January 1955. The Corps pioneered in the development of this system, the object of which is to enhance greatly the efficiency and flexibility in management of men, money and materials.

Under the present schedule, the system is to be put into use at two other Corps installations: Deseret (Utah) Chemical Depot, beginning 1 July 1955; and the Army Chemical Center, Maryland, beginning 1 January 1956. (See "The Army Industrial Fund," February 1954 DIGEST.)



According to the Office of the Surgeon General the cost of one dose of primaquine, the drug that really cures vivax malaria, is twelve cents. Taken daily, a fourteen-day regimen cures.



Reservists numbering 130,000 from some five thousand units will take fifteen days active duty training during the spring and summer months. This will be the fifth year since World War II that units have trained as such.

An equal number of Federally recognized National Guard units will

turn out 230,000 members for similar training.

Considerable impetus has been given in recent years to the Reserve and Guard summer training programs by the increasing willingness of employers to permit members of units to take time for this training in addition to their regularly earned vacations.



Field testing of experimental types of load-carrying systems for the combat soldier is being conducted by the Quartermaster Corps. The new equipment would make possible the elimination of eighteen standard items of duck and webbing. Besides reducing weight of present types of webbing, it would permit better distribution of loads on the soldier's back, thus enhancing his mobility.



The Chief of Military History has approved the setting back of the founding of the U.S. Army Signal Corps to 21 June 1860, the date Congress authorized the appointment of the first Signal Officer. The 3 March 1863 date, previously observed, was the date on which Congress authorized the creation of the Signal Corps, as such, to serve as an integral unit of the U.S. Army. Inasmuch as Signal activities were authorized and recognized by law and were actually carried on nearly three years earlier, the Chief of Military History feels that the Signal Corps is entitled to observe the earlier date as its official birthday.



A project to furnish Headquarters, United States Army, Europe and Seventh Army with mobile communications centers has received approval. Every effort will be made to complete the undertaking by 1 November so as to permit use of the equipment in USAREUR's December maneuvers.

Signal equipment installed in mobile vans will allow rapid displacement of headquarters and uninterrupted communications in fluid situations.



At Fort Eustis, Virginia, the transportation Corps has erected a 4500-foot aerial tramway for use in discharging cargo where conventional port facilities are not available, or where conventional beach operations are not practical. This tramway was adapted from the successful Arabian-American Oil Company installation in the Persian Gulf, which was utilized to unload pipe, vehicles and general cargo from ships three miles offshore. The Army's tramways, now under procurement, will have an operating length of from 6000 to 7000 feet and can be built in about 15 days. Unit load capacity is 10 long tons with an hourly capacity of 80 long tons.



The President has signed an amendment to the Uniformed Services Contingency Option Act which extends to 1 November 1954 the deadline for personnel to participate in the Annuity Plan for the benefit of surviving dependents.



A program for increasing the armored striking power of the National Guard was inaugurated 1 July with conversion of the 40th Infantry Division of California to the 40th Armored Division of California.

The change-over gave the National Guard three armored divisions, including the 50th Armored Division of New Jersey, and the 49th Armored Division of Texas. The conversion however did not change the numerical divisional troop basis of the National Guard which remains at 27, including 24 infantry divisions.

A 60-mm. tube which fits into the 4.2-inch tube of a mortar means substantial increase in the amount of range firing a mortar crew can get in its training and a substantial decrease in mortar shell costs to the Army. The subcaliber device permits use of smaller shells which cost \$7 per round and which are entirely adequate for training purposes, instead of the normal shell used in combat and which costs \$20 to \$40 per round.



A five-year program of research in the possibilities of radiological sterilization of foods has been instituted by the Quartermaster Corps with the support of the Atomic Energy Commission, all of the military services, and the Department of Agriculture. Research contracts have been awarded to nearly a score of universities and industrial firms. The program will be in keeping with the President's expressed desire to apply atomic energy for the benefit of mankind. If successful, it may have a profound effect upon food processing and packaging.

The newest 5-in-one ration, designed for subsistence of small troop detachments separated from the kitchens of their commands, represents many innovations and improvements. Developed by the Quartermaster Food and Container Institute, the new ration, now under procurement, has greatly improved meat, vegetable and fruit components. Besides canned pecan roll and dried coffee cream, it introduces for the first time a highly acceptable canned bread unit which remains wholesome after two years of storage.



The Supreme Command, by Dr. Forrest Pogue of the Office of the Chief of Military History, is another in the *European* sub-series being published by the Army under the over-all title, "The U.S. Army in World War II." The book describes in detail how the Supreme Allied Command prosecuted the war in northwest Europe during 1944-45.

Official Notes

DA Message 512-738 permits Reserve officers who are within two years of completing 20 years of active service and who can qualify for retirement under Title II PL 810 to remain on active duty, subject to age, budget and manpower limitations.

C2 AR 35-1320, D/A states that every officer in time of war serving with troops operating against an enemy, who shall exercise under assignment in orders issued by competent authority, a command above that pertaining to his grade, shall be entitled to receive the pay and allowances of the grade appropriate

to the command so exercised, provided that a rate of pay exceeding that of a brigadier general shall not be paid in any case by reason of such assignment.

SR 220-180-5, recently released, re-emphasizes the responsibility of unit commanders for CBR (chemical, biological and radiological) preparedness. Formerly this had been a responsibility, as an extra duty, of CBR specialists within the unit. The primary object of the change is to achieve complete integration of such activities with all other combat unit activities.

ARMY INFORMATION DIGEST

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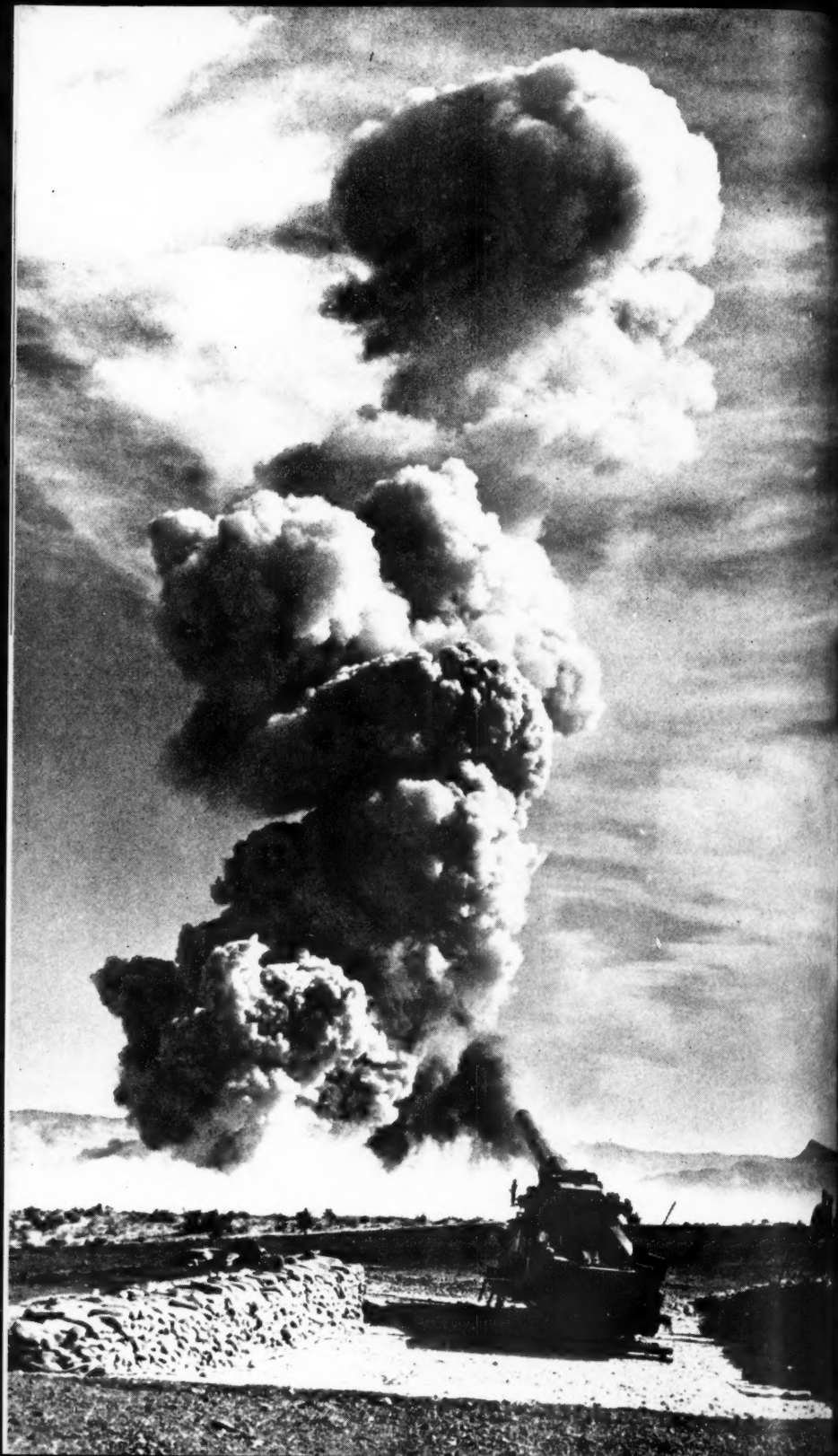
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(For explanation of abbreviations used see SR 320-50-1.)



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